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Near East/South Asia Report

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26 MARCH 1987

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SOVIET AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES AFGHANISTAN, IRAN-IRAQ WAR

Tunis AL-'AMAL in Arabic 4 Feb 87 p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Sobchenko, Soviet ambassador to Tunisia: "Normal Progress of Cooperation Between Our Two Countries, Joint Desire To Strengthen It"; name of interviewer, date and place not given]

[Text] Faced with the intricate problems in the world now, among the most important of them being the problems of Palestine, Afghanistan, and the Iraq-Iran war, AL-'AMAL met with Mr Vladimir Sobchenko, the Soviet Union's ambassador to Tunisia, to explore his country's view of developments in these problems and to learn the outlook for bilateral relations between our countries. This was the conversation:

[Question] What is the present situation of Tunisian-Soviet relations, and what is the outlook for them?

[Answer] First of all, I say that our two countries have a long history of fruitful bilateral cooperation. Last year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations based fundamentally on the principles of mutual equality and respect and noninterference in each other's affairs. Common goals link Tunisia and the Soviet Union, among them the deep devotion of both to peace and freedom and a rejection of all forms of aggression and hegemony.

On the international level, our countries are working energetically--each according to its means--to establish peace and social development and to found a new international economic system. This is what has made our positions on international issues close or similar.

Cooperation between us, especially in the economic and technical fields, is based particularly on the agreements signed between our two governments on 30 August 1961, 15 April 1976, and 13 October 1983. On this basis, the Soviet Union is giving Tunisia aid in completing the water projects that have become a basic foundation for cooperation. With the participation of Soviet specialists, the principal pipeline for utilizing northern water has been laid. This pipeline represents a program for a major and long-term water supply. Also, through economic and technical cooperation between our

countries, the National School of Engineers was established. Since its inception, it has been able to educate 200 Tunisian engineers.

As for cultural and scientific cooperation, 60 Soviet professors are now working in Tunisia in a program that also includes support for Tunisia and for its efforts in the health and sports fields, with 50 Soviet doctors and 4 athletic coaches now present in Tunisia.

40 Million Dinars in Trade Between Our Countries

Climaxing this cooperation, an agreement was signed on 22 April 1985 in Moscow to establish the Permanent Soviet-Tunisian Government Committee on Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Trade Cooperation. The committee held the first of its meetings in Tunis during February 1986. The establishment of this committee aims at accenting the wish to diversify and deepen cooperation for the benefit of our countries and peoples. In our view, the search for new prospects for cooperation and the strengthening of traditional approaches to it will contribute to developing this cooperation.

As for trade relations, they have been given a framework by the trade agreement signed between our two countries on 6 April 1977 and the trade protocol for 1986-90. In 1986, the volume of this trade exchange rose in comparison to previous years and reached nearly 40 million Tunisian dinars.

I wish to state here that Tunisian-Soviet relations are advancing well and that there is a common desire in our countries to develop them on a continuous basis.

Solution to the Afghan Problem Soon

[Question] Although the Afghan problem has recently seen developments, not everyone is optimistic about the closeness of a solution. What is your opinion?

[Answer] We believe in the Soviet Union that the only way leading to a solution is the way of national reconciliation proposed by the government in Afghanistan. The proposal for a cease-fire beginning on January 15th is a valuable one. We hope all the fighting forces will respond to it. Stopping the fighting is necessary if the warring parties are to arrive at a discussion of the question of preparing for a peaceful future in Afghanistan. If all the parties arrive at the creation of ways and means for ending the fighting--and through their own possibilities--we will support them, either in the framework of the Geneva talks or in Islamabad or New York, and also in all the mediation efforts being carried on by the personal representative of the UN secretary general. In our view, national reconciliation and a political settlement meet not only the interests of the Afghan people but also those of the neighboring countries. We think that everyone who desires the welfare of Afghanistan must support the goal of a political settlement, which we think is closer than at any previous time. It is our belief that the year which has begun may produce new relations for Afghanistan with its neighbors and support for this state as an independent state following a neutral policy. The Soviet Union will exert its utmost efforts to realize the policy of national reconciliation within

Afghanistan and the formation of a government of national unity. In the framework of a political settlement, the problem of the withdrawal of Soviet forces can be solved. This withdrawal must in the first instance provide for the stopping of all foreign interference in the affairs of Afghanistan and provide guarantees for this.

We Have Prepared a Schedule for Withdrawing Our Forces

[Question] Has the Soviet Union already prepared a schedule for withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan?

[Answer] This schedule is already in existence in the context of the mission being undertaken by Mr (Cardobas), the personal emissary of the UN secretary general, and in agreement with the Kabul government. The Soviet military presence in Afghanistan took place at the request of the Afghan government; the withdrawal of this presence will, of course, take place with its agreement.

[Question] The world is experiencing critical developments during these days in the Iraq-Iran war, developments that will threaten peace not only in the region but in the entire world.

What is the Soviet position on these developments?

[Answer] From the first day of the outbreak of fighting, during the recent years of the war, and until the present, the Soviet Union has been calling for a halt to the fighting and for a political solution of all the disputes between the two sides. We consider it a war without justification, one whose continuation is unjustified. Development in these two fraternal countries has been halted. Sadly, there are always parties interested in the continuation of this war.

I believe that in view of the dangers of possible expansion of this war within the region what is required now in the face of the losses of this conflict is a halt to the fighting, a return of the two sides to their positions before the beginning of the fighting, and a discussion of their differences around the negotiating table.

[Question] Can we learn the Soviet Union's opinion of the proposals that have been put forward for achieving peace in the Middle East?

[Answer] The Middle East problem is subject to special complications and reaches through numerous stages. Its just and lasting solution requires the solution of many very intricate problems involving the interests and rights of many nations and parties. It has now become clear to everyone that an unclear policy and individual solutions have not led to any positive result. What is therefore wanted is the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace which will realize peace and tranquillity for all peoples of the Middle East. The way to this is through the convening of an international conference.

Inasmuch as the Soviet Union believes that the current situation in the region does not make it easy to convene this conference, and in order, furthermore, to move peace efforts in a practical direction, the Soviet Union has called

for initiating preparation for this conference by means of a preparatory committee. We do not thereby wish to impose a solution in advance. That is something for the conference to debate. In our view, the question requires collective action, bilateral contacts, and multilateral negotiations, particularly in the framework of the preparatory committee and after its establishment. This action may bring us closer to putting forward serious suggestions for realizing the interests of all the countries, including those of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In our opinion, the realism and salutariness of this path will find understanding on the part of the international community. The UN General Assembly session confirmed this when it voted by an overwhelming majority for Resolution 41/43D, affirming the need for a speedy call for an international Middle East peace conference. The same was the case in the Security Council as regards the call for the creation of a preparatory committee with the participation of all permanent council members to initiate steps to convoke this conference.

12937

CSO: 4504/141

ASALA REPRESENTATIVES IN BEIRUT DISCUSS DEALINGS WITH FRANCE

Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Oct 86 p 3

[Article by Francoise Chipaux]

[Text] Beirut--In an interview with AFP and LE MONDE, three representatives of the ASALA, an Armenian extremist movement, stated in Beirut on Wednesday, 15 October: "Negotiations are underway with the French Government and this is why the wave of attacks has stopped." "We expect the French Government to keep its promises, otherwise we will resume our operations, which will be more severe," they added, stating that an ultimatum, although without specifying any deadline, had been submitted to the French Government. "The ASALA," they continued, "has already declared all French objectives worldwide to be military targets. We defy Chirac and promise Mitterrand disasters if their promises are not kept, that is, the release of prisoners."

Those prisoners are an ASALA militant, Varoujan Garbidjian (sentenced to life imprisonment following the July 1983 attack that killed 8 and injured about 50 people at Orly Airport), and Georges Ibrahim Abdallah and Anis Naccache. The release of the three men is also being demanded by the CSPPA (Committee for Support of Arab and Mid-Eastern Political Prisoners), which has claimed responsibility for the September attacks in Paris.

The three ASALA members, whose faces were concealed by black hoods, stated they are Mr Vahran Vahranian, official ASALA spokesman, Mr Mirhan Mihranian, a member of the ASALA Political Committee, who responded to the questions posed, and "comrade" Murad. The interview took place in West Beirut in the offices of the Arab-language weekly ATTASSADI.

Without revealing too many details about the content of the negotiations, Mr Mihranian said they were being held with several representatives. "Our negotiations," he said, "are separate from those that France is conducting with Iran and those that France is also conducting with other parties. But the government must not deceive the French public and say it is not negotiating. It is negotiating and, at the right time, we will reveal the content of the secret negotiations in progress and the content of other negotiations as well. We know everything." But, Mr Mihranian stated, "if the French Government intends to first obtain the release of the hostages and then negotiate afterwards, it is mistaken."

To support his statement, Mr Mihranian alluded to a negotiating session with a French delegation, but without specifying the date, during which, he said, one French diplomat told him: "Mitterrand is a socialist, so why do you classify him as a Zionist? Your problem with us is the issue of Armenian prisoners. If we release them, will our problem with you be resolved?" "My reply was: 'Release the prisoners and afterwards we will discuss how to resolve our conflict....' Let Mitterrand and his government dare to deny this statement and we will then publish a detailed account of the negotiations which took place and the names of the persons who conducted them. In doing so, I would be denouncing Mitterrand's deceptive policy toward the French public and showing how he mutilates the truth."

In this connection, Mr Mihranian recalled the affair of the release of the former French cultural attache in Tripoli, Mr Gilles Peyroles: "When he was abducted," he said, "the French Government negotiated and promised to release Georges Ibrahim Abdallah in exchange for the release of Peyroles. But when Peyroles was released, Mitterrand went back on his promise. We are aware of all the details of those negotiations. It is because of that policy that disasters have rained down on the heads of the French people."

Mr Mihranian gave another example of the negotiations in progress by explaining the reason for the ASALA's communique of 7 October, which asked the Islamic Jihad to "execute" Jean-Paul Kauffmann during Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' visit to Paris. "With that communique," he stated, "the ASALA took a political step intended to awaken the French public. If there had been no secret negotiations between the French Government and the parties holding the hostages, Kauffmann and his colleagues would not be alive." "Those negotiations are still underway," the ASALA representative stated, "who denies it?..."

No Connection with Syria

He rejected the accusations that have "appeared in the press" concerning the ASALA's responsibility for the assassination of Colonel Goutierre, French military attache in Beirut, on 18 September. "But," Mr Mihranian said, "what is happening to France is due to Mitterrand's terrorist policy, which is linked to that of the United States and Israel."

In reply to a question concerning the ASALA's possible responsibility for the wave of attacks in Paris, Mr Mihranian noted: "The important thing is not who carried out those attacks. I never told you it was the ASALA."

Mr Mihranian also emphasized: "We have no connection with the Syrian Government's policy, nor do we have any connection with the Iranian Government. We have a cause that we are defending with a progressive and internationalist vision. Neither Syria nor Iran are imperialist nations, and Iran is not the center of liberation movements. But it is obvious that if Mitterrand sides with Iraq, he will have problems with Iran. It is normal for me to side with Iran, which is fighting against France, whose policy is linked to that of Israel, the United States and Turkey."

Mr Mihranian, who focused most of his attacks on the chief of state, said that there is "an enormous difference between Mr Mitterrand and Mr Chirac." "If there had been no pressure from Mitterrand, Chirac would have resolved every problem and would have avoided all the disasters that have rained down on the heads of the French people," he stated. "In 1985, the Mitterrand government released ASALA militant Abraham Tomassian to the Second Lebanese Bureau (intelligence services) and to the Lebanese Forces (Christian militia). Jacques Chirac released the three heroes of the "van" operation, and he released them to the ASALA." The ASALA representative was referring to Vasken Sislian, Hagop Djulfayan and Kevork Guzelian, accused of taking hostages at the Turkish Consulate in Paris and released in Beirut on 5 August.

Exactly what does the ASALA want? "Today," he replied, "we are demanding the immediate release of all ASALA militants, their allies in the Near East and in France itself." "First of all," he said, "there is Varoujan Garbidjian, unjustly convicted by Mitterrand. Even the French courts have not been able to establish any connection between him and the Orly Airport attack." "The ASALA was responsible for that act," Mr Mihranian acknowledged, "but Garbidjian had nothing to do with it. The person who carried out the operation managed to get out of France. Garbidjian was the victim of a police trick." (1)

The ASALA is also demanding the release of Soner Nayeri. Mr Mihranian "defies" the French Government to furnish any proof of his involvement in the Orly Airport attack, as well as that of Mr Ohannes Semerci, "also unjustly accused of having been involved in that operation." With regard to the release of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, the presumed leader of the FARL (Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Groups), and of Anis Naccache, leader of the commando unit that tried to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in July 1980, which the ASALA is also demanding, Mr Mihranian explained: "We proclaim our solidarity with them and all Arab militants must unite against Western intelligence services and the Mossad."

When contacted by LE MONDE, the prime minister's office told us that no one had ever been assigned to negotiate with the ASALA and reaffirmed the government's doctrine of negotiating only with established governments.

FOOTNOTES

1. Mr Mihranian stated that following the Orly Airport attack, French police arrested about 100 Armenians and demanded that Mr Garbidjian point out the guilty one among them under threat of deporting them to Turkey, where they risked death. The ASALA representative stated that in view of this choice, Mr Garbidjian took responsibility for the act himself, but subsequently recanted.

11915
CSO: 4619/07

CHANGES IN MAKEUP OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSED

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 13 Feb 87 pp 24-25

[Article by L. Chaabouni]

[Text] As it moves into its third legislature, the National People's Assembly (APN) is reaching a turning point. Backed by the experience of a decade, this important legislative institution is also undergoing a tangible internal evolution. It is an evolution that has to do with the nature of people's representation, that faithful reflection of democracy at work and a balance that must be adapted to the demands of existing circumstances and transformations underway.

As a result, an overall analysis of the new face of the APN sheds light on two important aspects of its makeup: a manifest trend toward more youthful members and a majority of professionals. Out of 885 candidates for the deputy seats, no less than 76 percent fall into the 30-45 range. Out of a total of 339 candidates, 27 percent are between the ages of 30 and 34 and 29 percent are between 39 and 45.

This predominance of young people is confirmed by a noteworthy increase in the level of education of future elected officials. No less than 428 candidates selected (49 percent of the total) are university graduates, while 259 (29 percent) are high school graduates. Those with an elementary or intermediate level of education are in the minority, representing 1 and 6 percent of the total. One should note the proportion of upper-level professional and those holding doctorates, who total on the order of 15 percent.

While teachers and professors (35 percent) and administrators (35 percent) make up a noteworthy majority, one should also point out that high-level executives (45 candidates), lawyers (30), judges (48), doctors and pharmacists (30), engineers and technicians (60), journalists (14) and agronomists (37) have now looked to the legislative body. The APN thus has a wide range of disciplines and it is precisely in this specificity, this diversity, combining technical background with experience, that one sees a very balanced representation and the sense of a full and complete democracy, true richness. It is an additional asset that contributes to the execution of a mission transmitted from generation to generation, backed by the experience accumulated and the knowledge invested.

Total: 885 Candidates

Breakdown by Age

Under 45	78 percent
From 45 to 60	20 percent
Over 60	2 percent

Level of Education

Elementary, Intermediate-secondary	36 percent
University, Advanced	64 percent

Socio-Professional Breakdown

Executives	5 percent
Civil servants	35 percent
Teachers	35 percent
Judges, attorneys	5 percent
Doctors, pharmacists	4 percent
Engineers, technicians	6 percent
Agronomists, fellahs	4 percent
Merchants, liberal professions	1 percent
Retired	4 percent
FLN, ALN [National Liberation Army]	22 percent
Young people	72 percent
Women	6 percent

In this overall balance, the ANP (11 percent) and the FLN (11 percent) are represented by 206 candidates. Women make up 6 percent (60 candidates), an increase. The gap -- there were only 4 women in the second legislature, compared with 10 in the first -- is thus corrected, in accordance with the orientations contained in presidential circular No 52.

11,464

CSO: 4519/79

AUTONOMY OF BUSINESS EQUATED WITH 'DEPETROLIZATION' OF ECONOMY

Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French 13 Feb 87 p 25

[Article by F. Ziane]

[Text] It is a veritable revolution -- the term is not too strong -- this autonomy of business recommended by the Fourth National Conference on Development and defined by Presidential Circular No 54, while waiting for legislation and regulations to codify the field and its application. The circular is most welcome, for it gives real substance to a notion that for years, beyond the period when each one did what he pleased in industry, everyone wanted as the indispensable therapy preventing many businesses from becoming obsolete.

What is at stake? Nothing less than reconciling Algerian business with the essential function it should never have lost sight of, the function at the very root of its founding: the economic function. Everyone stands to profit if we all do away with the experience of long years of erroneous attitudes, facile behavior. The tutelage authority must no longer consider business as a field for the most paralyzing and sterile bureaucracy. Business must no longer be a burden to government, but rather, become one more element of its prosperity.

Whatever the case, autonomy cannot just be improvised. It is learned by a gradual application and necessarily depends upon "a transformation of behavior and methods," more initiative and entrepreneurial thinking, in a word, sound, transparent economic management. Having said this much, it is clear that autonomy does not mean a scattering of efforts or diluted responsibilities. To the contrary, within the framework of political and technical planning, which remains the guide and organizer of development, business is called upon to have a better grasp of its objectives, organize better and fully assume its responsibilities, now rid of the surrounding obstacles and red tape.

On this subject, Circular 54 could not be clearer. Business-government relations must be limited to the essential, improved economic efficiency. Relations must be aimed at providing help to business within the framework of planning and to provide followup. In addition, business, which will have a better vision of its field of activity through a rapprochement of production/distribution functions, must make optimum use of human and material resources

so as to improve work productivity and achieve the competitive edge that is indispensable to winning foreign markets.

Finally, business autonomy is nothing more than the "depetrolization" of our national economy and here, the efforts and initiative of executives, management personnel and workers must make it possible to turn the corner.

11,464

CSO: 4519/79

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, SHURA MINISTER RADWAN INTERVIEWED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 17-23 Jan 87 pp 21-22

[Interview with Mr 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan, minister of state for the affairs of the People's Assembly and the Shura Council by AL-TADAMUN: "No Revocation of Democracy; Egypt Has Not Forsaken Arabism"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Mr Radwan is currently the minister of state for the affairs of the Egyptian People's Assembly and Shura Council. Previously, during the era of the late President Anwar al-Sadat, Mr Radwan occupied the position of minister of culture. However, after a while he found himself in disagreement with the well educated Egyptians, so he resigned from his position. Today, due to his current position, he has a direct relationship with the peoples' representatives, and the internal and external issues raised inside the People's Assembly. AL-TADAMUN conducted two interviews with him one by Hamida Na'na' in Cairo and the second by Abu Bakr al-Sharif in Rabat.

Following are the relevant points in the two interviews:

[Question] What is the mission of the minister of state for the affairs of the People's Assembly and Shura Council?

[Answer] It is a multi-dimensional mission. The minister of state is the main liaison between the government which is represented by the Council of Ministers as the executive authority and the People's Assembly and Shura Council as the legislative authority. This is the first dimension. The second dimension is the job of coordinating between the members in the Assembly and the government regarding the requirements of the electoral districts represented by the members in the Assembly. The third dimension relates to the fact that the minister is simultaneously a member of the People's Assembly and a representative of the executive authority. Consequently, he has to respond to the questions and suggestions expressed by the members and which concern the executive authority.

[Question] According to the third dimension, or the third mission, do you find yourself sometimes in a conflicting position between your capacity as a minister who has to convey the requests of the Assembly members objectively and your capacity as a member in the National Party whose party's interests may not necessarily coincide with the requests of the Assembly members who represent the opposition?

[Answer] The ministerial responsibility implies that the minister, regardless of his party affiliation, is a minister for all Egyptians. When I perform my job inside the Assembly, I perform it facing the members regardless of their parties' affiliations or mine. It is incumbent upon me to attempt and help the realization of any request by any member regardless of his identity as long as the request is legal. However, if the argument between us relates to national interest, the priority will be to the view of the National Party. This concept is recognized by the whole world.

[Question] While at the People's Assembly where does your role as a minister end and your role as a representative start?

[Answer] Differentiation between the two roles is not easy, but it depends on the issue of debate. If it has a legislative nature or attributes, I do not differentiate between my capacity as a minister or as a representative. But if the issue of debate relates to a partisan interest or a point of order, I must present and clarify the government's position. However, my capacity as a representative takes priority at all times.

[Question] Were you elected from your electoral district because you are a prominent person affiliated with one of the very wealthy families, or this consideration had no effect on your success as a member of the People's Assembly?

[Answer] Before everything else, I am an Egyptian, and belong to this soil. I am also an Arab and am proud of that. As for the other considerations, I leave the answer to them to journalistic research that seeks to find the truth.

[Question] Some people talk frequently about democracy and the hope for its survival. There is a widespread complaint among all other political orientations, other than the National Party, that the opposition representatives, inside the People's Assembly, cannot express their points of view with absolute freedom as a result of the interference of the speaker of the Assembly or the members of the National Party, what is the truth about this complaint?

[Answer] The claim that the opposition members in the People's Assembly do not obtain their share of expressing what they want, is not true. The opposition members in the People's Assembly enjoy complete freedom in presenting their points of view and questions. The members of the majority (National Party) respond to them with complete freedom. Frequently some members of the majority ask for the floor but do not get it due to observance of ratios and proportions.

[Question] Some sources mentioned the probability of transforming the Shura Council to a senate. Is this true?

[Answer] The idea of transforming it to a legislative council is still under study. Its current mission is the legislative and constitutional studies, and the comparison of the laws promulgated by the People's Assembly relative

to their conformity or contradiction to the constitution. We believe that, in the near future, it is better to transform it to a full legislative council and to have it practice the same specialities that were practiced by the senate before the revolution adopted the idea of having only one council.

[Question] The experiment of multiple parties in Egypt has been going on now for several years. It has proved that it is strong against several incidents that occurred in Egypt, such as the Central Security Forces incident. How, then, do you view the future of democracy in Egypt?

[Answer] The future of democracy in Egypt is obvious from its perseverance in the face of the crises which we faced. During the Central Security Forces incidents, the multiple party experiment was shaken, but it survived through the efforts of the President and every individual in Egypt. The response was more democracy since no exceptional measures were adopted inspite of the existence of articles stated in the emergency statute, or the laws called disreputable laws, which allow the President to act differently.

[Question] Aren't these laws actually disreputable?

[Answer] Opinions differ in this regard. In spite of the existence of these laws, and although they are theoretically valid, yet they were not applied during the crises. This is a clear indication of the adherence of every Egyptian from the President to the man in the street to democracy. AL-TADAMON published all the details of the meeting between the heads of the opposition parties and President Mubarak after the Central Security crisis. It showed that the discussions, by all parties, were responsible and democratic. Accordingly, it was decided to leave what belongs to Caesar to Caesar, and what belongs to the people to the people, i.e., to let the concerned justice pursue its investigations and have the final word.

[Question] There are political currents inside Egypt that have an impact, efficiency, and existence in the streets, namely: the Nasserites, the Grouping party, and the muslim brotherhood. Yet, they are neither represented in the People's Assembly nor the Shura Council. Is there an article in the constitution that prevents the representation of these currents?

[Answer] The elections of 1984 were conducted according to the stated laws and regulations which are still valid. The party that realized the proportion approved by the people--which is 8 percent--was represented in the People's Assembly. Any political current that did not realize the percentage determined by the law has the right to say that the law is disreputable. But this does not mean that this or that party has stopped performing its activities. These parties are practicing their rights of expressing their opinions through the free press. They criticize and blame the government or whoever they choose among the authorities in the National Party or the State. Isn't this considered a step towards democracy? Isn't this also considered a method of practicing control in its brightest and utmost form hoped for by man? Even under the dome of the People's Assembly or Shura Council, any opinion is restrained by what the majority approves, but the opinion in a newspaper is not tied to a majority and reaches the people without constraints

or discrimination. Isn't this considered a main source of opinion within the Egyptian community?

[Question] Does this mean that these parties have the right to talk but do not have the right to act, i.e., they have the right of speech but not the right of expression? This is what happened, e.g., when the economic resolution number 121 was issued. The opposition press wrote too much about it, but what was written did not lead to changing it as long as the change is subject to the decision of the majority in the People's Assembly?

[Answer] I will answer this question with a question, namely: Does the opposition want to impose on the majority the dictatorship of the minority?

[Question] The opposition is, for instance, against the method of election by lists, which is the method that is currently followed. It demands that the government should find another method through which the democratic forces will be able to express their existence. What is your position, as a National Party, concerning this demand?

[Answer] The issue of election by lists, as it was practiced in 1984, has been submitted to the courts. Till a decision is taken concerning it, we are committed to it. Laws are subject to change.

"The law of election by lists is submitted to the Constitutional Court to decide on its constitutionality on the third of this month. However, the court delayed its decision till next March. At the same time, the majority in the People's Assembly adopted a resolution to change the law in a way that combines between election by lists and individual elections. The opposition considered this resolution as a way to enter the Constitutional Court from the back door, and consequently withdrew from the Assembly. The problem remains after its dimensions expanded more than before."

[Question] There is too much talk about the probability of abolishing the price support of basic commodities. Are there any proposed laws to be submitted to the People's Assembly relative to this issue?

[Answer] Many propositions will be submitted but they do not affect the price support. However, we must be practical. Egypt is undergoing an economic crisis which is a part of a universal crisis resulting from the decline in petroleum prices, the deficit in the Suez Canal revenues, and the decline in tourism. These factors led to a tremendous deficit in the State's revenues. What we aim to do is a sort of settling the conflict between the various groups in the community. What I mean to say is that there are groups who can shoulder the burden or part of the burden in the next stage. In return we shall be able through some laws and measures to provide resources to the havenots. I believe that it is the zenith of democracy to take from the haves to give the havenots.

[Question] Is this what is called in official statements as "rationalizing subsidies"?

[Answer] There are some commodities which must be subsidized to the utmost limit. But what is needed today is to rationalize subsidies so they reach those who deserve it. Some people say that government employees are the most deserving group, while other people believe that peasants and workers need the subsidies more than others. Till now we have not reached a clear perception of this issue. It needs a precise and fair determination of the groups. We need studies and discussions to determine the best method that ensures that subsidies reach those who deserve them. Personally, I cannot imagine that those who have high incomes should be equated with those who have low incomes in enjoying basic materials at the same prices.

[Question] Let us discuss the relationship of Egypt with the Arab World.

[Answer] Egypt is a part of the Pan Arab nation.

[Question] There is a noticeable improvement in the bilateral relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Can this be considered an indicator of an opening in the Egyptian Arab relations paving the way for a return of Egypt to the Arabs?

[Answer] This is an issue that has a volume and dimensions that make it too big to be discussed on an individual basis. However, generally, as a witness or a follower of Arab politics lately, I can say that the expression of the return of Egypt to the Arab arena or the Arab ranks is an inaccurate expression, because Egypt did not leave the Arab ranks, and consequently there is no reason for it to return since as long as man has not left a circle there is no reason for him to return to it. If we want to be accurate, we realize that others tried to force Egypt out of the Arab ranks. This attempt at expulsion had its causes and counterbalances. I also believe that it is time for each of us to review his stand. Egypt did not commit a deliberate wrong but it did what it did, however it is described, driven by national interest above anything else. Egypt did not forsake any rights. The Camp David treaty, inspite of all that it was sullied and described with, represents two papers; one pertains to Egyptian land and its return, namely, Sinai and its return from Israel to Egypt. This is our right as resolved by the Fas Summit where the resolution was unanimously passed that every Arab country whose land was occupied in 1967 had the right to take any measures it deems necessary to have the land returned to it. This is the first paper of Camp David. The second paper pertains to the Palestinian cause. Egypt did not interfere with the Palestinian cause. It did not claim a right that it did not have, but offered a framework, and stipulated that the framework should be presented to, and recognized by, the Palestinian side which is the original side in the Egyptian Israeli negotiations or the future negotiations which were expected to be held between the Palestinians themselves--the principal question--and the other party which is Israel. Egypt did not put one dot in this paper without referring to the Palestinians and said that they are the owners of the real interest and the real owners of the cause. This concept was the originator of the Mena House Conference. We

invited all the parties: Jordanians, Palestinians, Syria, and all the concerned entities. We raised their flags, made reservations for them in Mena House, but they did not come, so we folded the second paper and put it in a drawer till this moment. What crime has Egypt committed? Egypt did not forsake anything. Egypt did not leave the Arab ranks but considers itself to be inside the Arab ranks and has never left. Egypt always has an open heart and open arms for the Arab brothers from all orientations. This, in brief, is Egypt's stand.

[Question] What about the noticeable improvement in the Egyptian-Saudi relations?

[Answer] This is a step on the way which we hope will flourish and develop towards the better. We as Egyptians have certain special ties with our brothers in Saudi Arabia. In my estimation, it is the sort of tie that attaches us to our brothers in Sudan.

[Question] The Iraqi-Iranian war remains at the forefront of Arab and Islamic concerns. It is well known that Egypt has a distinguished role in supporting Iraq out of a Pan Arab concept. How do you view this war in light of the recent developments relative to America's supply of huge quantities of arms to Iran?

[Answer] This is one of the most dangerous issues that confront the Middle East and the most important issue that confronts the Arab region as a whole. But unfortunately, we tend to ignore somewhat the role that is required from us as Arabs. Iraq, as we know, is an Arab country, tied by more than one charter with the Arab countries through the Arab League, mutual defense agreement, unification agreements, bilateral Arab agreements, and the several assemblies. Thus Iraq, with all that it represents, is one of the Arab pillars for which the Pan Arab Nation from the extreme east to the extreme west should stand up with and for. Whatever occurred on the battlefield during the 6 or 7 years of war is really regrettable. To see an Arab country supporting Iran against Iraq, to see a country--as was reported--opposing Iraq in collusion with Israel which was the cause of forcing Egypt out of the Arab arena, here is an Arab country supporting Israel and coordinating with Israel to supply Iran, a non-Arab country, in its aggression against Iraq. What makes the issue more sensitive is that Iran is an Islamic country which shares with us religion and faith, but Egypt helps Iraq through the concept of its belonging to the Arab arena. In the meantime Egypt is exerting its efforts to stop the war.

[Question] It was observed that you exchanged parliamentary delegations with the Soviet Union. What are the dimensions of these visits?

[Answer] Whoever says that Egypt leans more towards this camp than that camp is wrong. We are in the final analysis practicing our right of sovereignty over our land according to our constitution, laws, and will. We are not leaning towards this or that camp, but we are open to the utmost extent to all the countries of the world.

[Question] Can it be said that the Egyptian-American relations are parallel and similar to the Egyptian-Soviet relations now?

[Answer] Of course not. During a period the Soviet-Egyptian relations were stronger. After the seventies, matters changed. Egypt has the right to stand alongside the party that brings about the realization of its interests be that the Soviet Union or the Americans. But why is this concern about the Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement? Isn't it wanted for us? Egypt works towards an Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement, Egyptian-British rapprochement, Egyptian-American rapprochement, and Egyptian-French rapprochement. Egypt does what her interests require first and last.

12655/13046

CSO: 4504/122

IRAQ

UNIDENTIFIED JETS FIRED ON IN ZAKHU

Turks Deny Involvement

TA021448 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1435 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Silopi, Southeastern Turkey (A.A.)--Functionaries and civilians, majority of them drivers of trucks waiting to enter Iraq, at Habur customs check point on the Turkish-Iraqi border panicked when Iraqi anti-aircraft guns opened fire on two unidentified planes flying over Zakhu district in northern Iraq.

Alaaddin Turan, Governor of Mardin Province told A.A. that around 18.00 hours local time two unidentified jets appeared over Zakhu. Iraqi anti-aircraft guns opened fire on the jets, but they disappeared without receiving any hit.

Meanwhile, Turkish land and air forces are conducting operations along the border against separatists, who fled to Iraq after committing a massacre and killing 14 civilians and wounding nine others in a Turkish border village last week. Turkish authorities confirmed repeatedly, however, that no Turkish troops entered Iraq.

Jets Identified as Iranian

TA021510 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1505 GMT 2 Mar 87

[Text] Silopi, Southeastern Turkey (A.A.)--Two war planes that appeared on Sunday over Iraq's Zakhu district 12 kilometers from Turkish border are identified as Iranian, official sources reported today.

Iraqi anti-aircraft response to them had created excitement at Habur check point over the Turkish-Iraqi border. The planes had disappeared after ten minutes of firing.

An average of four thousand vehicles cross back and forth the Habur customs check point at Silopi town of Turkey's southeastern province of Mardin, which provides a link between Turkey and the Middle East.

The majority of vehicles passing through Habur are tanker trucks transporting oil between Kirkuk and Turkey's Mediterranean port of Iskenderun.

/8309

CSO: 4400/157

IRAQ

SPOKESMAN HAILS COMMANDERS OF RECENT BATTLES

JN011441 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)--An Iraqi military spokesman has said that III Army Corps Commander Staff Lieutenant General Diya' al-din Jamal, Al-faris Forces Commander Staff Major General Husayn Rashid Mahmud, Muhammad al-Qasim Forces Commander Staff Major General Salah 'Abbud Mahmud, Baghdad Forces Commander Staff Brigadier General Kamil Sakit 'Aziz, and Khalid ibn al-Walid Forces Commander Staff Brigadier General Mahmud Hummadi al-Juburi led the battles against the Iranian forces in the southern sector last night and this morning. In a statement to INA today, the spokesman affirmed that these commanders waged the battle against the Iranian forces and led their forces to victory over the heads of the enemy. The spokesman hailed every commander, officer, and soldier who waged these battles. He affirmed that victory is the inevitable result of belief in God and the homeland, when principles are entrenched in the mind, consciences generously give sacrifices, and the hands join to defeat the enemy.

/8309

CSO: 4400/157

PROGRESS IN PRODUCTION SECTORS NOTED

Baghdad AL--THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Jan 87 p 8

[Text] The production and marketing sectors attached exceptional importance, during the later months of 1986 to excessive delays in the marketing of basic commodities and food products. They focused on the implementation of the directives by the leadership of the party and the revolution in terms of taking practical steps to secure the citizens' needs and to emphasize the strength of the Iraqi economy and its deeply rooted capacity to secure the production and marketing needs for these commodities.

We recall in this regard the meetings of the committee of higher coordination for production and marketing establishments which is chaired by Mr Taha Yasin Tamadan, member of the revolutionary command and first deputy prime minister, who conducted field visits to the production sites. The meeting concentrated on dealing with the practical steps which could provide distinctive stability in the domestic markets.

In terms of implementation, the production sectors hastened to carry out their missions and to increase the productivity of their work. The state of coordination and cooperation between the production and marketing establishments has experienced serious guidance and unprecedented enthusiasm in managing this coordination with increased accuracy and innovation.

The implementation policies of the economic administrations have resulted in the achievement of a quick change in direction to overcome temporary obstacles. They also led quickly to the implementation of the marketing contracts concluded between the production and marketing establishments according to the priorities for each commodity necessary for the livelihood of the citizens.

Regarding the production of vegetable oils, good results were quickly achieved in the implementation of the marketing contracts with the General Establishment for Trade in Food Products which in November 1987 amounted to 100 percent of hydrogenated oils, 261 percent of liquified oils and 116 percent of detergents. The production establishments implemented their marketing contracts for sugar at a rate of 113 percent, molasses at 107 percent, cigarettes at 110 percent, natural vinegar at 161 percent, and tomato paste at 93 percent. Our industrial

organizations rely, in drawing their production plans on facts and realistic resources for securing the primary and intermediate materials needed for the continuity of the production operations. When they start this year to implement their annual marketing contracts which were concluded with the organizations of the socialist commercial sector, according to the central plan and within the priorities authorized to mobilize the means and resources and the necessary appropriations.

In spite of the fact that the priorities of the planning and implementation work concentrated on the production activities of the necessary food commodities, which is a sound and urgent action, yet the other branches, and specifically those that produce current consumer commodities and secure the basic needs of the Iraqi family including household and electrical appliances have also achieved successes in production and marketing.

We shall mention here some of these successes by citing the rates achieved through the marketing contracts for these products which reach the Iraqi consumer via the distribution outlets of the socialist commercial sector, the consumption cooperative societies and others. Regarding the contracts for the last month in 1986, the Light Industries Company implemented its marketing contracts with the Iraqi General Commercial Establishment at a rate of 109 percent for refrigerators, 100 percent for freezers, 100 percent for oil heaters and 101 percent for kitchen filters. The Electronic Industries Company implemented its marketing contracts for radios at a rate of 109 percent, 134 percent for cassette tapes, 96 percent for color televisions. Al-Halal Industrial Company implemented its marketing contracts for coolers at a rate of 104 percent. As the the General Establishment for Electrical Industries, its implementation rate of marketint contracts was 110 percent for incandescent lamps, 116 percent for florescent lamps, 107 percent for all purpose illumination devices and 108 percent for water pumps.

These facts clearly emphasize that the efforts exerted by management and workers will achieve continued progress and will reap larger economic benefits through the improvement of managerial methods of production operations, increased initiatives for maximum utilization of work capacities and resources, the establishment of technical methods to utilize alternative primary materials, and the avoidance of wastefulness and losses in production, storage, transportation, and other supplementary operations. Furthermore it is necessary to avoid matters that are secondary and whose absence would not affect the quality of the product and its utility to the consumer and which have to be provided in appropriate quantities to meet the domestic demand for them.

12655/9738
CSO: 4404/213

NEW ELECTRICAL NETWORK IN BAGHDAD

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Jan 87 p 4

[Interview with Mr Layth Arzuqi, director general of Baghdad Electricity Distribution Administration, by Sattar Abd-al-Jabbar; place and date not specified]

[Text] Under the auspices of the glorious 17th of July revolution, Baghdad and all the subdivisions of the suburbs have witnessed a rapid development in addition to the large expansion that occurred in the areas of building and construction which require that electrical energy be provided to satisfy its needs and to push the industrial wheel forward and support the socialist building operation.

To find out the dimensions of the expansion that occurred in electrical energy generation, AL-THAWRAH interviewed Mr Layth Arzuqi, the general director of Baghdad Electricity Distribution [Administration], who said: The General Administration of Baghdad Electricity Distribution designed its plans to meet the increase in electric load for the Arab capital of Saddam Husayn. The plan was divided into two stages: the first stage was to adopt the measures and rapid control needed to preserve the stability of the electric system in terms of the bottleneck points as diagnosed by the Administration's equipment. The second stage was to prepare the annual plans and programs, and the calculation of electric loads for the whole province until the year 2000.

Direct Implementation Method

He added that the implementation of the electrical network has started accordingly. This was achieved by the Administration's cadres using the direct implementation method and exploiting the national expertise in this field. The result was the completion of ground cables, aerial insulated networks, high voltage electrical networks and the provision of electrical energy transformer stations which were completed to meet the increase in electric loads.

Mr Layth Arzuqi mentioned that this vast electric system is controlled through the control centers which are operated by electronic computers.

He added that the implementation rate of the new electrical networks, and replacement of old networks for the city of Baghdad and its suburbs has exceeded 60 percent while plans are ongoing to complete the project of replacing the remaining networks, and supporting them temporarily till they are replaced.

Development of the Electric Load

The general director explained that the indicators that the Administration has of an increase in the electric load underscore the rate of development that is occurring in the urban, industrial, agricultural and commercial areas which the country has witnessed under the leadership of the nation's knight and engineer of its revolution, the president and leader Saddam Nusayn. The number of consumers, and electric load (excluding the industrial and agricultural sectors) rose from 235,664 consumers, and an electric load of 156 megawatts in 1968 to 608,648 consumers and a load exceeding 1200 megawatts in 1986.

Last year, new networks were completed for 14 residential districts that include 17,432 houses. Electric network improvements with 74 feeders whose capacity is 11,000 volts, were completed for nine residential areas.

In view of the directives of the president and combatant leader Saddam Husayn to provide services to the al-Mutajawizin houses, electric current was connected to 6000 residences in addition to supplying all the residential districts which were distributed by the leader president to the citizens with electricity in record time. These included military and civilian houses and the al-Rashidiah network which alone supplies 23,000 consumers.

The general director added that to control this large expansion which is occurring in the city of Baghdad and its suburbs, and to reduce the citizens' burdens and decrease their petitions for obtaining electricity, the Administration established field electric circuits all over the province which offer their services to the citizens. This helped facilitate supplying electricity and reduced the number of petitions.

The General Administration's Plan for 1987

The general director emphasized that the Administration's program for the current year is in keeping with the ambitions of the party's and revolution's leadership under the chairmanship of the leader president Saddam Husayn, to offer the best services to the citizens and to display the capital in a beautiful and appropriate appearance. The program included the illumination of the streets and lanes in the city of Baghdad with modern lighting according to the most modern technology used in the world. It will include the districts of al-Amil, al-Bayya', al-Qahirah, al-Baladiyat and other quarters of Baghdad, in addition to the implementation of the electrical networks for the new residential districts which were distributed all over the province, and the construction of 20 transformer stations with a capacity of 33,000/11,000 volts.

As for the illumination of the main streets, this will include the streets of al-Sha'b, al-Salikh areas, 7 Abkar, Awr district, al-Bayda', al-Mashtal, Qanat al-Jaysh, al-Quds street, al-Shu'lat al-'Amal streets; Corniche al-'Atifiyah, al-Sayyidiyah, al-'Amal, al-Bayya', al-'Adl; and al-Muwasalat district in addition to containing any increase that may occur to the electric load. The Administration's program for training is ambitious. Coordination is being concluded with the General Establishment for Electricity and its professional training center to prepare intermediate technical cadres in a periodic and annual manner in addition to opening sessions for the workers in the Administration, not to mention the field training for these cadres. This contributed to the development of professional and technical achievement in the work which is carried out through the direct implementation method that is done by the Administration's cadres. Moreover, the Administration's cadres participate in the meetings of the boards of directors of the engineering institutions and colleges to create interaction between the teaching cadres and the needs of the work sectors.

The Administration has a division specializing in receiving citizens' complaints regarding power failure, the existence of damage or delays in the electrical networks. These are studied and analyzed to prepare daily and monthly programs to solve the treat these problems.

As for the citizens' complaints about high electricity bills, the amount of the bill depends on the citizen's use of electricity. The Administration welcomes any complaints in this regard after the citizen has checked his bill against the meter's reading, since the probability of error in computing the electricity bills is almost nonexistent because they are done by the Administration's computers.

12655/9738

CSO: 4404/213

TRADE MINISTER ASSESSES JORDAN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

'Amman AL-SAWARI in Arabic Jan 87 pp 6-9

[Interview with Jordanian Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir: "Interview With the Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply," date and place not specified]

[Text] Our interview with Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir dealt with the most vital, important sectors of the Jordanian economy, the ones which attract the citizens' attention the most because of how they touch on all segments of society.

AL-SAWARI asked the minister questions covering all matters of concern, and received detailed, clear, reliable answers.

[Question] The international and Arab economies are passing through hard times. What does Your Excellency think are the reasons for this? How do you think we can get out of these circumstances? Can we expect to get through this stage any time soon?

[Answer] To the observer and student of international economic conditions and relations, the gloomy situation which has prevailed since the beginning of the Eighties, between the industrial nations (the North) and the developing nations (the South) is obvious, beginning with the economic recession and stagnation in the industrial countries, the drop in oil prices on world markets, the development of a huge oil surplus, the drop in oil revenues (particularly in Arab oil-producing countries), and increased unemployment, particularly in developing countries, and ending with the developing countries' foreign indebtedness, which has placed the developing world in a severe economic, political and social crisis. Dialog between North and South has reached an impasse which precludes any positive results which might benefit both sides, or more properly the developing nations, which are always the underdog in such dialogs because the industrial nations are always in a stronger position to control the world economies.

Today the basic issue is the developing countries' debt burden, the result of existing international economic relations with all their variables. Foreign debt is firmly linked with the conditions laid down by international trade and finance, the interest rate, the fact that the dollar is the international currency, and so forth.

The root of this crisis is the growing pressure on the developing countries' budgets, the result of instability in the world economy as a whole. Similarly, the transmutation of the difficulties confronting the payment budgets into a severe development crisis is the result of the international currency and finance system's inability to overcome the pressures exerted on the payments budgets because of the decline in the economic and commercial growth rate.

It appears that it will be very hard to get out of this crisis in the near future, or at least until the year 2000, unless the developing countries' foreign debt crisis is dealt with, and unless the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank acts quickly to alleviate this problem by changing some of the loans into gifts to debtor nations suffering from drought, famine, earthquakes or floods, or by deferring loan payments for a specific period, be it medium or long.

Finally, an important point must be made: the developing countries must follow a unified economic strategy plan which would promote South-North dialogue and economic cooperation, including exchanging information and expertise, helping lesser-developed countries which lack raw materials, and bringing about economic integration among these countries in all areas of technology and science.

[Question] To a great degree, Jordan's economic circumstances reflect international and Arab economic circumstances. As minister, you have taken several steps to improve economic conditions and develop Jordanian exports. Could you give us some idea of Jordan's economic circumstances and the nature of the steps you have taken to escape the economic crisis?

[Answer] During the past few decades, Jordan faced major challenges and radical, all-encompassing economic developments, as evidenced by Jordan's achievements and accomplishments in all economic and social areas. Jordan was able to overcome the difficulties in the way of its comprehensive development and achieve high growth rates in spite of its sparse natural resources. Jordan followed the method of rationalized planning in directing, regulating and utilizing the available economic resources. The period prior to 1967 saw accelerated growth in various areas of economic activity, and was characterized by a concentration on developing the infrastructure and completing the principal production projects which Jordan had already begun. The 1967 war presented Jordan with severe new challenges and difficult conditions, characterized by economic recession and the dissipation of energy, but Jordan confronted both situations with wisdom and courage.

During the third development plan (1973-75), which saw the first clear understanding of economic cycles, we in Jordan achieved very high growth rates of more than 11 percent each year. Furthermore, we emerged from this plan

with a tremendous feeling of confidence. These positive results were due to the wise leadership of His Majesty the King, along with favorable local domestic stability coupled with a strong desire to develop, grow, and utilize the available human and natural resources through careful economic and social planning.

In spite of the world-wide economic recession of the early Eighties, which since 1982 had an obvious impact on the sources of the Jordanian economy's strength, and the resultant drop in growth rates for most local economic indices, the Jordanian economy exhibited an outstanding ability to conform and adapt to international economic circumstances and recent changes in neighboring countries.

Ever since it was established, the government has worked tirelessly to carry out the royal assignment to revive and stimulate economic activity, by restructuring its economic goals and priorities for the coming phase and by laying down guidelines for an economic policy best suited to achieving those goals and priorities.

The following measures were taken by the government to get out of the economic crisis and revitalize economic activity.

A. For the short haul, it drew up decisions and measures aimed at solving the problems facing some economic sectors and regulating their activities, to enable them to raise themselves up again. These measures included government measures and programs for rectifying conditions in several failing companies, either through voluntary liquidation, restructuring of capital, or merging with other companies.

The government followed the principle of private sector participation in drawing up practical, easily-implemented decisions in keeping with the priorities and goals laid down by the government in its economic directives.

B. The long-range policy has several main axes, the most important being restoring the private sector's confidence, providing the incentives it needs to assume its national responsibilities, encouraging and supporting local industrial and agricultural production, and creating a foreign trade situation the basic feature of which is restricting imports so as to improve the balance of payments.

C. Another measure has involved removing obstacles in the way of investors and giving them sufficient incentives to resume their investments, expand them, or build up new ones.

D. Trade projects set up in free zones have been exempted from income and social service taxes. The government has just finished drawing up the next 5-year plan (1986-90), which differs from its predecessors in that it is geared towards restoring equilibrium among the various economic sectors and developing the various regions of Jordan. The goals of this 5-year plan can be summarized as follows:

1. Achieving a 5-percent yearly growth rate in the gross national product in fixed prices throughout the plan;
2. Creating new job opportunities in the various sectors of the economy for Jordanian citizens, so as to reduce the potential unemployment rate and minimize the severity of the imbalance in the Jordanian money market;
3. Reducing the presently-existing disproportion between total public and private sector consumption expenditures on the one hand and the gross national product on the other hand;
4. Reducing the deficit in the trade budget as much as possible;
5. Strengthening joint Arab economic activity by promoting integration of the labor market, developing joint projects, increasing trade, and coordinating development plans; and
6. Developing the various regions as part of a comprehensive regional development plan aimed at achieving a more balanced distribution of economic and social development.

Jordan's economic experience proves beyond a doubt that it will always be able to overcome crises. We have gone through circumstances more difficult than those we are now experiencing, but we overcame them nevertheless. He who forgets history must suffer from its repetition. The vital nations are the ones which see, in their difficulties, an opportunity to go beyond them and achieve something better.

Finally, I would like to stress that because of its geographic location, Jordan must live and coexist with those around it. Sometimes it wins and sometimes it loses, but its growth line is always going up. Why should this time be any different from what has gone before, especially since we are now better able to face it?

[Question] What does Your Excellency think of how the transportation sector is serving the Jordanian economy? In particular, what do you think of the role of the Shipping Lines Company in helping serve Jordan's economy and trade?

[Answer] The transportation sector is an important sector which has significantly influenced economic activity by serving production efficiency, foreign and domestic trade, transit trade, tourism, and the social development of various parts of the Kingdom. Many things have been achieved in this sector, such as the construction of new roads, improvement of existing roads, expansion of al-'Aqabah Port, and the provision of new planes for the national airlines, in addition to the opening of additional routes connecting Jordan with several Arab, Asian and European countries. Economic and technical studies have been conducted for several projects in this sector, such as the proposed rail line from Hattiyah to al-'Aqabah, which will transport phosphate to al-'Aqabah at lower transportation costs, thus increasing Jordan's

ability to compete on foreign markets. This rail line will also carry other goods imported and exported through al-'Aqabah. This sector includes the land roads, the Civil Aviation Directorate, Alia Airlines Organization, the al-'Aqabah Railroad Organization, the Ports Organization, the Hijaz Railroad, the Public Transportation Organization, the Meteorological Directorate, public sector companies involved in land and maritime transport, and private sector companies involved in transporting goods and passengers.

The Transportation Ministry has conducted studies on regulating the various means of road transportation, including an investigation into the capacity, revenues, costs and transport rates (tons/kilometers) of truck traffic between 'Amman and al-'Aqabah. The results of this study will be used to regulate road transport in the economic, technical and administrative contexts. For this reason, we are trying to develop this general economic sector and modernize the various working methods of the transportation sector's organizations. Emphasis is also being placed on continual maintenance of all facets of the transportation sector, particularly roads, in order to ensure their safety and the safety of the public. In addition, methods of enforcing laws and regulations for road traffic are being improved, to ensure compliance with established axle weights and safety conditions. Training programs are being intensified and diversified so as to train the personnel the transportation sector needs. Contacts are being pursued with neighboring Arab countries to standardize control of high-altitude air traffic, open up new air lanes for this purpose, strengthen and modernize the national airline organization's fleet, and expand the private sector's role in transporting goods and passengers. We are trying to achieve all these general things in the future, so as to improve the level and efficiency of the Jordanian transportation sector.

As for the Shipping Lines Company, I see the opening of more shipping lines and increased trade with neighboring Arab countries and the rest of the world.

[Question] The Jordanian National Shipping Lines Company operates the al-'Aqabah-Nuwaybi' route, the main purpose of which is to serve, improve and develop trade between Egypt and Jordan. Could you give us some idea as to the trade protocol with Egypt, to what extent it has been applied, and what obstacles there are, if any, to this protocol?

[Answer] The purpose of Trade Protocol No 9 of 1986, which was signed earlier by the two fraternal countries, is to increase the volume of trade to US\$250 million, or \$125 million on each side, during 1986. This is to be achieved through various channels, the most important being the trade centers in both countries, mutual agreements, free trade in convertible currencies, and specialized trade fairs. At present both sides are carrying out the provisions of the protocol, and there are no obstacles worth mentioning right now. If some should arise in the future, both sides will surely try to remove and remedy them through ongoing contacts, meetings and efforts aimed at increasing and developing trade between the two countries.

[Question] What difficulties do you think stand in the way of improving inter-Arab trade?

[Answer] Improving inter-Arab trade is firmly linked with Arab economic cooperation and harmony, and with implementing the provisions of trade agreements concluded under the auspices of the Arab Economic Council, the Unity Council, and other specialized authorities and organizations.

The Arab world could become an economic force playing an important role in the world economy, provided that better use is made of the available resources so as to achieve broader, more comprehensive regional and national development.

[Question] Many economic reports have indicated that the recession will last until the end of the decade. Do you agree with this statement, or do you have another opinion?

[Answer] The international economic recession and stagnation could retreat during the next few years, particularly in the advanced industrial nations, which in view of their sound, strategic economic planning in many economic areas have the means of overcoming these difficulties. However, unemployment might increase.

The situation will be completely different in the developing countries, unless they try to utilize their natural and human resources appropriately, and limit the growth of their foreign debts to industrial countries. These debts will continue to increase until the year 2000, unless these countries also try to limit the flow of money out of their countries towards the industrial nations, design sound economic policies, concentrate on strengthening and promoting North-South dialog, and give up their disagreements.

[Question] 1986 is almost over. What can we hope for in 1987 for the Jordanian economy? What activities and expansion programs would you like the Shipping Lines Company to add to its activity?

[Answer] I hope that 1987 will be a good, prosperous year for our dear Jordan. I also hope that the economy will improve, particularly in the production and services sector. More importantly, I hope that job opportunities will be provided for all Jordanian citizens, and that an effort will be made to make use of Jordanian skills in all areas. I also hope that self-sufficiency can be achieved, so as to provide food security for Jordan. I hope for an increase in and encouragement of local production, and for self-reliance in restricting imports and reducing the trade deficit as much as possible.

I hope that the private sector's confidence will be restored, and that it will be given whatever incentives it needs to assume its national responsibilities as it did so skillfully and creatively in the past. I also hope that joint Arab economic action will be reinforced by greater integration of the labor market, development of joint projects, increased trade, and coordination of development plans. As for the Shipping Lines Company, I would like it to expand its future activities and to try to open up more scheduled shipping routes, so as to facilitate trade between Jordan and other countries.

8559

CSO: 4404/236

INTERVIEW WITH ELIE HUBAYQAH

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Feb 87 p 19

[Interview with Elie Hubayqah, former leader of the Lebanese Forces, by Bashshar 'Abdallah: "Victory of the National Option Over the Sectarian Option, Unity of Lebanon the Most Important Thing"; Zahlah, date not given]

[Text] The 2d year of "wandering" has begun for Elie Hubayqah, who is now stationed in Zahlah waiting for a solution, and perhaps waiting for a miracle, or, let us say, a military surprise that will bring him back to his "home" in East Beirut.

On the occasion of the beginning of the 2d year, AL-QABAS went to the former leader of the "Lebanese Forces" and conducted an exhaustive interview with him in the capital of the Biqa' Valley, which lies in the area of Syrian presence.

As is well known, Zahlah, with a population of about 1/4 million, is the capital of the [Greek] Catholics in the Middle East and has always stood on the side of the Lebanese Forces, despite attempts of reasonable men to keep it neutral. Now it is as bewildered as Elie Hubayqah.

Here is the text of the interview:

[Question] What does the passage of a full year after the collapse of the 3-party agreement mean for Elie Hubayqah? Is it merely an anniversary? a stage? a lesson?

[Answer] The 15th of January has a number of meanings for me and for the line we are taking. In itself, the episode of 15 January was a military action that led to the country's arrival at a result whose meaning was that the crisis that had begun to retreat in favor of a solution resumed its advance at the expense of this solution, but more violently and more cruelly, taking in not only those directly involved in the events of 15 January, but every Lebanese citizen.

Before that date, we had laid the foundations on which the general solution to end the war could rest--foundations we considered important for a real, not temporary, end to the crisis. These foundations--the principles--on which we relied were as many-sided as the Lebanese crisis. A class in Lebanese society

felt that it could not attain its aspirations because of the existence of obstacles before it. Struggle was therefore the means open to it, and the demand for reforms or for certain reforms was merely an expedient allowing the completion of the struggle. Unfortunately, this class, or, more correctly, this group, belonged to a particular sect. Lebanese society is composed of leading personalities who obtained a certain political role by inheritance. Before the war, we used to find that Najah Wakim obtained a seat in parliament and got votes at a higher rate than the other candidates. This was because there was a thirst among the new generation for new symbols. At the same time, we find that the leaders of the war are the very same people who were involved in the achievement of independence.

A Man Without a Sect

In our view, the 3-party agreement not only ends the war of the Lebanese among themselves, but also lays the practical foundations for building a new Lebanon according to political thought and logic. What is most important in these foundations is the abolition of the logic of sectarianism and its replacement with the logic of the individual: the replacement of the logic of sectarianism with the logic of political action--i.e., the man who does not need a sect in order to reach authority, the state, and government. Instead, the political party or political mind would be the fundamental link between citizen and state.

What happened is that certain classes considered that the 3-party agreement infringed upon their high social standing and constituted a danger to their existence and even to their future. Whoever does not believe in Lebanon's belonging to the Arab world felt danger. Whoever does not believe that political action is the foundation and believes that one's sect is the foundation felt danger and harm. The patriarchs of the sects, that is, felt danger and harm. Those who fear peace felt danger, for there are those who won their position and authority through the gun and war.

All these factors, in addition to external factors having an influence on the Lebanese arena, combined to thwart the hope the Lebanese agreement aroused in the minds of the Lebanese. The striking down of the 3-party agreement in this way gives us an idea of the future and makes clear to us why for the last 12 years all solutions have failed.

[Question] When will 15 January no longer be a danger standing as a symbol in the face of solutions? When will there no longer be Western and aggrieved forces to strike down the solutions?

[Answer] The faction that struck down the 3-party agreement is still present now and is following its same path of sectarian partition. The 15 January operation might happen again. This leads us to say that any serious future solution can take place only when between all forces having an interest in the solution and an interest in society there is an alliance and partnership to confront the danger overtaking the country. The meeting and union of all is the only means to reach the solution.

Why We Are in Zahlah

[Question] Perhaps you are asking yourself, and your supporters around you are asking themselves, whether the year that has passed with you in Zahlah will be followed by another year like the last one, or whether the stay in Zahlah will draw to a close.

[Answer] We are in Zahlah because we refused to locate outside Lebanon, so as not to be like those political leaders who, faced with some blow or shock from their rivals, immediately decided to leave for abroad and began to work through intermediaries in politics.

We believe that our inner convictions call for the struggle to continue. We did not come to Zahlah because we are Christians and because the people of Zahlah are Christians. We came to this city because it suffers from a vacuum at the leadership level and because the remaining positions outside East [Beirut] have their leaders. Going to the latter regions would create an undesired and unneeded power struggle on the ground. We came to Zahlah and began our movement from it. Zahlah, in the end, is not our last station; Zahlah is a period of transition to more advanced positions that we seek and that will return us to the positions we left. This we are doing with the goal of reunifying the country.

The past year was one of great experiences. We have experienced national activity in a real way. We went out of the environment in which we lived and tried to see whether the principles we believe in were realizable and applicable, or whether we were living in outer space and in fantasy. We found that our principles are vital ones for Lebanon and that not struggling for them would mean abandoning our responsibility toward our country and toward those who have died as martyrs. During the past year, we obtained a great deal of capital. In the coming year, we will increase this capital. The time of harvest may come this year. I think that 1987 brings good harbingers. Developments may take place allowing a possible ending of the crisis and the return of all refugees, we included, to their homes.

Which Solution?

[Question] Do the convictions you hold coincide with the solutions being worked on at this stage?

[Answer] First, we must define the solutions being prepared now. Currently, there is a solution attempt that moves along the line we are discussing. This attempt is the one the president is now undertaking with Syria. The solutions that deal with the position of the Palestinians and the struggle around the camps and elsewhere are marginal to the solution--i.e., to the general, national solution, which is the merging of the groups of the people with each other.

For us, the important thing is the victory of the national option over the sectarian option. The important thing is that political action should be the foundation, instead of sectarian action and instead of sect. The important thing is unifying the country, instead of partition and cantonization. The

important thing is liberating the land from the Israeli presence. And Lebanon's belonging to its Arab environment is also important.

If the solution now being worked on does not coincide with these theses, it will not bring us to an end to the crisis. Perhaps, the solution that is being worked on is a transition period for the sake of resting and alleviating the economic crisis, a stage allowing for transition to more advanced stages.

[Question] One point of entry into this solution would be holding a summit between the Syrian and Lebanese presidents. Do you predict the holding of this summit in the near future?

[Answer] I think the Syrian side is biding its time on the question of holding the summit. This summit is very important. It cannot be a tactical summit or for maneuvering, especially since it comes 1 year after the conflict. The summits that took place in the past fell into the framework of a sequence of normal relations between the Syrian and Lebanese governments. The summits that were held therefore had climates of ease and relaxation, something that is not available at this stage.

At the present time, there is a break and a shock which one of the parties has received. Consequently, the holding of the summit currently under discussion will not be hasty. I believe all the important subjects will be proposed for solution before the summit and that a positive atmosphere must be present before the summit is held. However, if you ask me whether a positive situation is present, I doubt that agreement has taken place on all the subjects.

The President and Settling Affairs

[Question] According to your experience with the political situation in East [Beirut], do you predict that President Amin al-Jumayyil will be able to mobilize the eastern sector around him in order to go to the summit?

[Answer] No. Just as it was difficult for us to confront the enemies of the solution by ourselves, it is difficult for the president to confront the enemies of the solution.

At this point, there must be a decisive battle confronting the current seeking a solution and the current hostile to it. One group cannot defeat the other. There must be partnership and consensus in order to reach a solution. I doubt that President al-Jumayyil can at this stage settle affairs in East Beirut by himself. Will al-Jumayyil take the path of settlement or not? That depends on the scope of his strategic view of the current meetings and contacts. If President al-Jumayyil wants to maneuver, he can; so he does not need to settle things. If his choice is final, then there is no choice but to settle affairs. I do not, however, see the president as ready to settle things.

Assassination of Sham'un

[Question] Can we say that the attempted assassination of (former) President Camille Sham'un fits into the context of settling matters in East Beirut?

[Answer] Certainly. There are two conflicting groups in the eastern sector. One group wants the war to continue and wants all Christians to continue to be gathered around one point so as to make it easy to lead and control them. There is another group that wants a political solution, because it sees that the country cannot continue in this way.

Within the group that wants a solution is the Maronite patriarch, and President al-Jumayyil's movement is grist to this mill. Sham'un happens to have blessed this approach. If everyone went in this direction, what would Samir Ja'ja' be able to do? Ja'ja' would have become a minority in the midst of a majority. In the eyes of the minority, the ideal way to a confrontation is for one of them to get rid of the symbols of a solution, so that the question comes to be as follows: the Lebanese Forces confronting the president. Getting rid of (former) President Sham'un was necessary and urgent for Ja'ja'.

[Question] --In spite of the fact that President Camille Sham'un is known to have been, most of the time, a rallying point for the opposition to the Syrian solution?

[Answer] You remember, of course, the composition of the government after the Lausanne Conference. At the time, President Sham'un was opposed to cancelling the 17 May agreement, just as he opposed participating in any government supported by Syria. In the end, the 17 May agreement was cancelled, and Sham'un entered the government. President Sham'un is one of the politicians about whom it is impossible to know when they will agree and when they will oppose. Samir Ja'ja' knows the situation well. Sham'un was opposed to current course of events toward a solution; then, suddenly, he supported the government. I do not know what was offered to him to make him change his position.

Reasons for Backing Down

[Question] Amidst all these rifts, what is the role of Elie Hubayqah's current in the ongoing contacts toward holding the summit?

[Answer] In the present period, we have no role in what relates to the summit or to the ongoing discussion between Damascus and Ba'abda. If you have noticed, the Lebanese government has submitted a working paper to Damascus, which has deduced the views of the parties from it. As for us, the parties who participated in the 3-party agreement approached us with requests some of which we accepted and others of which we rejected. We accepted some demands in return for Lebanon's continued existence; the choice before us was either to hold on to some positions and gains, or to preserve Lebanon. We found that preserving Lebanon was the important thing, and that was why we made concessions.

Internal reforms are now being discussed, not the special relationship with Syria, although these relations were perhaps a secret paragraph that people do not want to discuss now. President al-Jumayyil will certainly offer reforms, based not only on his position as president, but as a representative of the

Christians. As for us, if the side that is demanding reforms accepts what the president offers, we will agree to the solution; we have no objection.

Until now, our position vis-a-vis the current discussion has been marginal, because the warring parties have not yet reached a result that obliges all parties to enter the line of dialogue and discussion. The parties to the discussion are still taking the first steps. As long as they are, our role is not fundamental in the game.

The Israeli Position

[Question] There is no doubt that the formulation of any solution demands certain regional circumstances, most important among them being the Israeli position. Do you believe Israel will allow a solution in Lebanon to go through?

[Answer] Here the analysis will differ according to each party's view of the Israeli position in the Lebanese arena. There are Israeli statements that indicate it has become easy now for Lebanon to begin to bind up its wounds. The Israelis recently said that it is impossible to fight terrorism in Lebanon. This means that it has become impossible to counter terrorism by means of the Israeli army or its tools. According to Israeli thinking, this means that if Israel cannot, why shouldn't the Lebanese state insure security in Lebanon and prevent the existence of danger to [Israel], especially since there are armed forces in Lebanon that can strike Israel at any time. Then, there was the Israeli shock on account of the engagement of the Lebanese Forces on the side of the Palestinians. This affair caused Israel to abandon the forces of Ja'ja' which formed the core of the force that Israel could mobilize to strike at the solution. I say that if the Lebanese take matters firmly in hand and agree, it will be difficult for Israel to interfere and move.

[Question] Do you not think the Israeli hand will remain in East Beirut?

[Answer] Of course. Israel is not far from the eastern section, nor is it far from the western section; but there is a difference between Israel's being able to move an army and its being able to move a small force. In the past, Israel controlled a large army in the eastern section, armed military forces by means of which it could declare war. Now, however, Israel can do nothing but try to create destructive climates. Israel now has intelligence relations with Ja'ja', but I believe that political relations between the two sides have been broken off.

[Question] In your recent press conference, you said that the forces that made the 3-party agreement collapse must inevitably be confronted, and that they have to be confronted at this stage in the preparation of solutions. What would the practical form and strategy be for this confrontation?

[Answer] If there is a group that wants the crisis to continue, we have to try all political and nonpolitical means to limit its influence or to strike at it. We prefer political solutions because they do not cause bloodshed or increase the tragedy. But if political solutions are impossible, the country

cannot wait for this obstructing group to be convinced of the solution. At that moment, military solutions will be proposed.

27 September

[Question] --Like 27 September 1986?

[Answer] The 27 September operation was merely a crossing of lines. It was an internal operation, a kind of uprising, supported from outside by certain elements that were originally from within East Beirut. Uprisings may now possibly take place within East [Beirut]. The atmosphere is ready for such uprisings, and they may possibly receive support from outside.

[Question] Can we expect a joint military action against the forces obstructing the solutions?

Position of the Lebanese Forces

You are always pointing to the state of guidance in the structure of the Lebanese Forces led by Samir Ja'ja'. Can you give us a brief picture of what the condition of these forces has come to be in the past year?

[Answer] Guidance, certainly; this is what the people of the eastern areas perceive daily. You can confirm that the substructure of the Lebanese Forces has been destroyed by the many shake-ups they have witnessed. A large group from the forces have stayed at home because they do not believe in the political line Ja'ja' is taking. Another large group is located in Zahlah. A third group has withdrawn to Brummana (the northern flank), under the leadership of Fu'ad Abu-Nadir. The latter group is composed of veteran fighters who found dispute and mutual contradiction within the new leadership. As for Ja'ja''s group, most of it is composed of elements whose affiliation is marked by a narrow, personal character, by which I mean the "Bsharri" character (from Bsharri, the birthplace of Samir Ja'ja'). This group numbers 500 fighters, and a group of mercenaries and profiteers are gathered around them.

The cadres of the Lebanese Forces have withdrawn from them, and the leaders we see are recent. The Lebanese Forces have become fragmented; there is no connection between them other than an exchange of hostility.

Alliances between the fragments of the forces may occur, but they may change and be replaced according to circumstances of the crisis. The forces now are in the most miserable state they have ever been in.

Zahlah and Jazzin

[Question] The question of Jazzin, now that there is talk of an imminent Israeli withdrawal from it, is a heated subject. Do you have any point of entry to this question?

[Answer] Of course. I believe that if withdrawal from Jazzin takes place--and a withdrawal is possible if al-Jumayyil reaches a solution with Syria--

Israel will stir up the situation and then withdraw in order to create a clash between the forces, turn attention away from the subject of peace, and distract everyone with developments that might occur.

In my opinion, the solution that extended to Zahlah ought to extend to Jazzin, not because Jazzin is a Christian city or because the people in it defied the nationalists. All of that is no reason for destroying the city. To gain Jazzin one does not have to break it. Someone you break takes revenge on you. Someone who is forced to leave turns against peace. Let us consider that what happened in Zahlah ought to happen in Jazzin in order to turn it into a nationalist area that cooperates with the other nationalist areas.

[Question] Are there efforts being made on this subject?

[Answer] Of course. We are trying to look for a scenario for the Jazzin problem. I think Jazzin has nothing to fear, as long as there is a group able to turn Jazzin from an area considered hostile into a nationalist area.

[Question] Following the passage of all this time and this experience you have lived through, after the collapse of convictions and the emergence of convictions, do you consider yourself to have gained or to have lost?

[Answer] I certainly have not lost. If you consider the position I lost in East [Beirut] to have been the fundamental thing, then I am a loser. But the struggle on which I embarked far surpasses the loss of an office in East Beirut; so from this point of view I consider myself a winner.

I would have preferred to realize what I preached starting from East [Beirut]. Unfortunately, I was unable to achieve the desired goal. But I think I have gained experience and have come to look at matters from their broad perspective, and not from the narrow perspective in East Beirut.

12937

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NATION ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE BUDGET

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 4 Feb 87 p 15

[Text]

MUSCAT—Oman hopes to balance its budget by 1989 or 1990 but in the interim will continue to draw on reserves to help to meet shortfalls, a senior finance ministry official said yesterday.

Under-secretary for Financial Affairs Mohammed bin Musa Al Youssef told Reuters he was cautiously optimistic for Oman's economy provided oil prices remained stable above \$15 per barrel.

"If oil prices stabilise above \$15 we can say we are in control of the situation," he said. Last year's sharp fall in prices resulted in a 1986 budget deficit of about \$1.8 billion more than three

times the targetted level.

The newly-published 1987 budget puts spending at 1.610 billion rials (\$4.2 billion) and revenue at 1.335 billion (\$3.5 billion), giving a deficit of 275 million rials (\$714 million).

Mr Youssef said Oman had decided to adopt a three-pronged policy to tackle the impact of lower oil revenues: drawing on reserves, cutting expenditure and boosting non-oil earnings.

"You cannot cut spending by the same proportion as the fall in revenue—it is impossible unless you close down departments or take measures that are counter-productive," he said.

/9274

CSO, 4400/163

MASTER PLAN TO PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES UNVEILED

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 12 Feb 87 pp 4-5

[Article by Bala Menon]

[Text]

A comprehensive system of nature conservation areas in the Sultanate of Oman has been recommended by the Swiss-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The plan, prepared at the behest of His Majesty's Government, envisages the setting up of three types of conservation areas throughout the country - to be classified as National Nature Reserve, National Scenic Reserve and National Resource Reserve, respectively.

Officials of the IUCN presented aspects of the report on Sunday at a function at Al Bustan Palace Hotel. Attending were His Majesty's Personal Representative, Sayyid Thuwainy bin Shihab, the Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, Sayyid Fahad bin Mahmood al Said, the Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs, Qais bin Abdul Munim al Zawawi, members of the Royal Family, Ministers, Under-Secretaries and dignitaries.

Making the opening remarks at the presentation, Sayyid Shabib bin Taimour, Minister of Environment and Water Resources and

Deputy Chairman of the Council for Conservation of the Environment and Water Resources, said the IUCN-aided project was the result of Royal Directives issued by His Majesty in 1984 for a national plan for the conservation of wildlife and nature.

Oman has been a state member of the IUCN since 1975 and a contract was given to the organisation by the Diwan of Royal Court in 1984, Sayyid Shabib said. Work began on October 1, 1984 and was completed on May 9, 1986.

Sayyid Shabib said the recommendations made by the IUCN will affect everyone and every department of the Government. "Time will be needed to make a complete study of it. Before reaching final conclusions, this study will form the basis to co-ordinate with all authorities concerned in order to achieve the long-term objectives for safeguarding our natural resources, as laid down by Royal Directives".

The recommendations will now be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Dr. John E Clarke, the IUCN Project Leader in Oman, who presented the final report, said the

goals of the project were four in number:

- To prepare a policy statement that would define the Sultanate's stand on nature conservation;
- To prepare draft legislation appropriate to manage nature conservation in Oman;
- To design a system of nature conservation areas;
- To make recommendations on the structure and operation of a new Government entity to manage a nature conservation programme.

Sites

Dr. Clarke said the nature conservation area system was to be as representative as possible of the different terrestrial and marine environments of Oman and was to include as many populations of wild plants and animals.

In addition, sites were also to be identified as being of special interest for physical, biological or cultural reasons, like tidal inlets, coastal lagoons, caves and desert springs.

Special care was also taken to see that the nature conservation area system conflicted as little as possible with other forms of land use.

Designing the system involved the gathering of information on species and their distribution - through published and unpublished materials, maps, aerial photography and satellite imagery.

Field expeditions were also undertaken by the research team, mainly using four-wheel drive vehicles or small powered boats. The Sultan of Oman's Navy contributed by allowing use of large vessels in the waters off Musandam.

Three sets of maps resulted because of the research, Dr. Clarke said. The first dealt with

the layout of 43 species of terrestrial and marine environment of Oman: the second detailed the distribution of wild plants and animals of special interest (94 plants and 100 animals); and the third identified 89 sites of special interest.

Boundaries were then drawn up by the researchers for the nature conservation areas system, based on these maps. The report recommends that the National Nature Reserve be the most strictly controlled one - with permanent human settlement excluded; the National Science Reserve be subject to less strict control and human settlements could be an integral part; the National Resource Reserve applies to areas of interest about which there is insufficient information at present

Stages

The IUCN report said that an overriding recommendation was that the plan be implemented in stages. It has called for a Government policy, conservation legislation, the setting up of a nucleus of an office of a Director-General of Wildlife and Nature Conservation and recruitment of staff to manage nature areas throughout the Sultanate - phased over a period of ten years.

The Sultanate of Oman is admired for its conservation policy and Dr. Hartmut Jungius, Head of the Project Development Section of the Conservation Division of World Wildlife Fund International said the Sultanate has been able to establish, over the past several years, a remarkable record in nature conservation.

Oman became a member of the IUCN in 1975 and started at the same time its first survey of the flora and fauna in the northern

areas, as suggested in the report, will be situated in regions with a long tradition of human occupation".

Sir Peter Scott, Chairman Emeritus of the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN and one of the founders of the World Wildlife Fund, said in his address that he found Oman 'enormously interesting'.

Sir Peter is the son of Antarctic explorer, Captain Robert Falcon Scott who died when returning from the South Pole in 1911.

Oman's success in saving the Arabian tahr and the re-introduction of the oryx in the Jiddat al Harassis have made Oman famous the world over, said Sir Peter, who has visited the country three times.

Sir Peter said that the request by the Government of Oman for

the IUCN to prepare a programme for a system of nature conservation areas "shows that this country, thanks to the enlightened attitude of His Majesty the Sultan, is a world leader in the field of the conservation of our planet".

The presentation of the report was followed by a film on Oman's wildlife heritage, produced specially by the IUCN. mountains, followed by another in 1977 in Dhofar.

Three conservation projects were undertaken, with the support of the WWF and IUCN, which have now become models for nature conservation worldwide, Dr. Jungius said.

The successful projects were the ones on the turtles of Oman, the Arabian tahr at Wadi Serin of Jebel Aswad and the re-introduction of the Arabian oryx in the Jid-

dat al Harassis.

Several publications have been produced by the Office of the Advisor for Conservation, including reports on the flora and fauna surveys, which pointed the way for further research. Dr. Jungius said these report would be of significant help to students of the Faculties of Science and Agriculture at Sultan Qaboos University.

"Oman has a unique opportunity to do things correctly from the start", Dr. Jungius said. "Most of Oman's natural resources are unspoilt". Establishment of nature conservation areas does not, however, mean that a part of the country is being set aside from development.

"In fact, most of the protected

The project to design the plan for nature conservation in Oman began on October 1, 1984 and was completed on May 9, 1986. The project headquarters office was in the Capital Area.

Technical staff of the project included two full-time employees. While the project leader was an IUCN consultant, the assistant leader was Faisal Mohammed Suleiman al-Lamki, specially seconded from the Office of the Advisor of the Conservation of the Envi-

ronment in the Diwan of Royal Court. Faisal Mohammed is now undertaking post-graduate studies in Natural Resources Management at the University of Edinburgh.

Five other consultants were also involved in the project, sent to Oman by the IUCN for shorter periods. These were two marine biologists, two legal advisors and one specialist in the organisation of Government agencies.

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CSO: 4400/163

NEW PRODUCE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY FORMED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Jan 87 p 15

[Text] A delegation representing the founding staff of the Syrian Arab Company for Development of Agricultural Products has concluded the arrangements pertaining to organizing the subscription in the company's shares in Kuwait, the procedures of which will be announced soon.

Mr Muhammad al-Shash, the delegation's spokesman told AL-QABAS that this company will be managed on the basis of "the Joint Sector" which has proven to be successful in Syria. The state will contribute 25 percent of the company's capital of 300 million Syrian pounds while the remaining 75 percent will be contributed by the private sector. The founders subscribed to 40 percent of the shares. The remaining shares are offered to the Syrian citizens: expatriates and residents. Subscription for this company's shares was also offered to Arab citizens of various nationalities on an equal footing with the Syrian citizens.

Al-Shash discussed the background surrounding the establishment of the company. He said that Syria was considered an agricultural country and a traditional source of food for more than one Arab country and some foreign countries. Syria then directed its efforts to industry and realized a reputation in some alimentary industries especially those that depend on local agricultural primary materials such as cotton spinning, silk fabrics and sugar.

Al-Shash said that this phase was followed by the so-called petroleum age after the 1973 war, world inflation and the increased savings of petroleum exporting countries and the increased savings of workers in these countries from all the other Arab countries, leading to the accumulation of a good amount of savings which continues to seek good and safe havens for productive investment. The workers preferred to invest their money in their own country where it remained under their control, and where they could supervise its management personally, or else invest it in their Arab homeland in general. The scope of investment, generally available to the citizen, were limited to the narrow sectors of tourism, real estate, and trade until the political leadership of the Syrian government recognized the importance of directing these savings toward productive investment be it for the government or for the resident and expatriate individuals, and especially in the agricultural and alimentary industries sectors. Thus law number 10/86 was promulgated to

establish the agricultural joint sector in order to direct those savings toward the public and private sectors, and encourage them to invest in agriculture, agricultural industries, vegetables and livestock. This was in order to achieve the goals of the country's 5-year plan, to satisfy the needs of the national economy, and to create commodities that are exportable to the sister Arab and foreign markets provided they are of high quality and their costs are competitive with the international prices because of the high quality of agricultural soil and appropriate climate that Syria enjoys for a non insignificant number of crops, and Syria's reputation of expertise in agricultural works and alimentary industries. This law established the right to form corporations in which the public sector participates with 25 percent only. The state's contribution was probably in kind in the form of providing those companies with the necessary land from government properties. This contribution gave rise to the project and helped it progress because there was no need to buy land which may have been expensive.

The domestic and Arab private sector contribute by covering the remaining 75 percent of the capital. In the case of the Syrian Arab Company for Development of Agricultural Products, its founders from the private sector subscribed to 40 percent of the shares and offered the remaining 35 percent to investors stipulating that no shareholder, including the founders can subscribe to more than 5 percent of the corporation's capital.

Several Benefits

Al-Shash said that the project granted these companies several benefits. The Syrian Arab Company for Development of Agricultural Products got several benefits and exemptions including:

1. The company is not subject to the provisions and restrictions mentioned in the legal and organizational laws related to the public sector companies regardless of the proportion of the state's and the public sector's contribution.
2. The company is exempted from regulations halting, preventing, limiting and restricting importation; as well as from the regulations governing discount rates and direct importats from the country of origin. The company can import directly:
 - a) all its projects' and establishments' needs such as machines, equipment, non-touristic work vehicles, devices and materials that are necessary to launch its projects.
 - b) all the materials necessary for the operation of its establishments.
3. The imports of the company mentioned in item a above are exempted from all taces, financial and municipal fees, customs duties and other fees provided that they are not offered for sale in the domestic market.

4. The company's shares, financial assets, profits, distributions and all aspects of its activities in its field of activities are exempted from all taxes and fees for the first seven years from the date of the first balance sheet showing a profit. This exemption will also apply to every establishment created by the company for the first years dating from the first balance sheet showing a profit for the created establishment.

5. With the exception of discount rates regulations, the company has the right to open a foreign currency account at the Syrian Bank of Commerce with a credit of 70 percent of the amount of foreign currency accruing from the company's operations and services. The debit side of the above mentioned account will be recorded as the necessary amounts to be used in covering the company's needs for foreign currency.

The decree forming the company permits the registration of all the accumulated capital that is subscribed in foreign currency in a special account in the banks operating in the country.

Al-Shash said that the Syrian Arab Company for Agricultural Products is the first company to be part of the Agricultural sector company and was formed according to this law. A decree was issued by the prime minister on 17 September 1986 to form the company with a capital of 300 million pounds distributed among 600,000 shares valued at 500 pounds each to be paid in two installments; the first on subscription, and the second six months after the completion of the subscription. The decree creating the company also states that the value of the subscription for the expatriate Syrians and citizens of Arab countries is to be paid in foreign currency based on the current exchange rate in the neighboring markets, and as determined by the exchange office of the Central Bank of Syria.

Insuring the Company's Shares Against All Risks

Al-Shash mentioned that the decree gave the subscribers the right to transfer abroad their annual profits, and the proceeds from the sale of their shares should they decide to sell them would be in the currency that they used for subscription and at the same exchange rate. He added that among all the safeguards, that the law gave to the citizens of Arab countries in particular, is the right to insure their shares, against all risks, with the Arab Establishment for Investment Insurance.

Among those who collaborated to form this company are several Arab companies, Arab citizens and Syrians including the Arab Company for General Investments (ACGI) whose headquarters are in the Emirates, Sai'b Nahhas, the vice president of the Arab French Chamber of Commerce, the Engineers' Pension Fund in Damascus, the Agricultural Engineers' Pension Fund, Nabil al-Kuzbari, 'Adnan Qassar, the president of Beirut Chamber of Commerce, Jum'ah al-Majid, vice president of Dubyy Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hamdi Tabba, the president of the Jordanian Chamber of Commerce, Saudi businessmen al-Tayyib al-Tunsi, Shaykh Muhammad Baharith, and Tawfiq 'Arab; and 'Abd-al-Salam Haykal, the president of Tartus Chamber of Commerce.

Muhammad al-Shash also said that after completing the subscription, the company will be managed by a board of directors composed of seven members. The shareholders from the private sector will elect five members while the public sector will appoint two representatives. The board of directors will elect a chairman and a vice chairman. A general manager for the company will be appointed from outside the board of directors.

A Successful Experiment

Al-Shash said that the company, in its current organizational structure, will enjoy the advantages of both the private and public sectors. The Joint Sector in Syria, which was established in 1978, had a successful experiment in the tourism field. Several companies that were established by the sector have met with tremendous success. During a few years, in addition to the rewarding profits that they distributed to their shareholders in the two sectors, the value of their shares multiplied more than three times. As an example, during the last three years the Tourism Transport and Marketing Company distributed dividends to its shareholders amounting to 20 percent of the price of their shares, while its capital multiplied four times during the six years since its establishment.

Al-Shash concluded by emphasizing that there is great hope that the companies of the joint agricultural sector will realize the same success or more, and that this company will represent a point of departure toward the achievement of alimentary self-sufficiency and the contribution to Arab alimentary security. Regarding the company's projects al-Shash said that there is an inclination to authorize two types of projects. The first type is to realize a quick return in such areas as beekeeping, raising cattle, breeding fresh and salt water fish and using crop protection methods. The intermediate term projects include: breeding cows, the industrialization of their meat and dairy products, and offering final products to the local consumer and the importer; the production of oil seeds and oil extraction for export and domestic markets; and the production of cattle fodder from the waste. There are also long term projects which include growing citrus and fruit trees, the establishment of a slaughter house and a factory for preparing and processing meats.

Al-Shash mentioned that several establishments and smaller companies will be created from this company, each of which will specialize in the production of different products. Each establishment will have an independent management and independent capital. These companies will be granted the same benefits as the parent company.

12655/9738
CSO: 4404/213

KUWAIT ATTEMPTS TO MEDIATE INTER-YEMENI CONFLICTS

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has received a comprehensive report on the mediation undertaken by Kuwait to reconcile the contending parties in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), resolve the problem of emigrants to North Yemen, and normalize relations between the two sides. It says in the report that Sanaa regards the problem as a matter concerning essentially the southerners themselves and that the group of former president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad set as conditions halting the trials, returning individuals expelled from the ruling party to their jobs, while Sanaa proposed that a single national government be formed in Aden and that a new blanket amnesty with no exceptions be proclaimed. Aden agreed to meet with representatives of 'Ali Nasir in the North Yemen capital but changed its mind at the last minute.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the idea of a Kuwaiti mediation effort was conceived after Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, met with 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Ghani, Prime Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) and head of his country's delegation to the Islamic summit that was held in Kuwait in the last week of January. It took place after the Yemeni prime minister explained to the Kuwaiti amir his country's views on all the political issues in Yemen and described the heavy burden borne by his country as a result of the steady influx of emigrants from the south. Also, the efforts to reconcile the parties contending for power in the south have stalled. This was followed by two meetings (within the framework of Kuwait's efforts to clear the air between the two Arab countries) between Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas. It was reported after these meetings that Kuwait would move in two directions. One would be to seek a political solution to the problem of the emigrants and returning them to their country. The other would be an attempt to bring about a normalization of relations between the two Yemens.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that against the background of the Kuwaiti efforts a plenary meeting was held on 8 February in the city of Ta'izz under the sponsorship of the Kuwaiti delegation that comprised Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi and the Kuwaiti ambassadors to Sanaa and Aden. The meeting was attended by a high-level PDRY working delegation consisting of Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, Rashid

Muhammad Thabit, minister of state for union affairs, and Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Haytham, deputy chief of staff of the armed forces. Also present was a YAR delegation that included Muhammad al-Jabbari, member of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for union affairs, and Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali silah, deputy chief of staff of the Yemeni armed forces. The discussion at this meeting was limited to the problem of emigrants from the south to the north as a basic prerequisite for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

The officials in the YAR delegation presented their views on the problem along with suggestions for a political settlement between the parties vying for power in the south as follows:

The YAR considers the issue a purely southern issue and is ready, in the spirit of brotherliness, to participate in all the efforts to find a political solution for it.

The steady increase and continued influx of emigrants became a great burden for the YAR after their number plus families rose to about 50,000 individuals.

The suggestions offered by officials in the north were focused on several points for a political settlement, the most important being:

- (1) The PDY is to proclaim a new general comprehensive amnesty with no exceptions.
- (2) A single national government is to be formed that includes all the contending parties.
- (3) The Politburo and the Central Committee of the ruling Socialist Party is to hold an emergency plenary meeting before the events of 13 January and choose new political leaders for the party and state.
- (4) Or the dialogue that began in Sanaa last June is to be resumed.

After lengthy discussions the Kuwaiti minister proposed that a meeting be held between a southern delegation and representatives of the former president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The southern delegation agreed to this except that it hardened its position by refusing to participate in the political debate on a comprehensive settlement with those political leaders that were scheduled to be tried. It expressed a willingness to discuss the matter from the standpoint of guaranteeing the return of the emigrants.

After this was debated, the southern delegation agreed to a meeting if the other side also agreed after it was announced that the talks with the authorities in Aden were suspended at the start of the trials of the political leaders in the party.

So everyone went to Sanaa where the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs met with a delegation representing the former president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The 15-member delegation included 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, Ahmad

Salim 'Ubayd, 'Abdallah al-Bar, and Riyad al-'Akbari, all of whom are members of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party. Their views centered on the need to create the necessary environment for national reconciliation and a political solution by adopting the following urgent measures: halting the trials, releasing all political prisoners and returning them to their jobs, halting propaganda campaigns, restoring those dismissed from the party and work to their positions, treating the victims of the events of 13 January as martyrs and providing for their families, all without exception, and stopping the actions under way to hold the party's annual convention until a comprehensive political solution is achieved.

After the meetings that the Kuwaiti delegation led by al-'Usaymi held with all the Yemeni parties, it was decided to hold another Kuwaiti-sponsored meeting on 9 February in the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa to be attended by a government delegation from the PDRY and representatives of the former president 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. However, this meeting was not held, the decision being made after the PDRY delegation refused at the last minute to meet with the representatives of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

This happened after a meeting was first held between the Kuwaiti delegation and the government delegation representing the PDRY, which returned and excused itself from meeting with the representatives of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad who were actually in the hotel at the time.

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YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

NEW LAW RESTRUCTURES MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS, GUIDANCE

Sanaa AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Feb 87 p 8

[Law: "Full Text of the Law Bearing on Reorganization of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance"]

[Text] In the name of the people:

The president:

Having read the permanent constitution issued on 6 February 1978 forming the constituent people's assembly, amended by the constitutional declaration issued on 17 April 1978;

The constitutional declaration issued 22 April 1978 on the entry into effect of the constituent people's assembly decree defining the form of the presidency, its areas of competence and its duration;

The constitutional declaration issued on 8 May 1979 amending some provisions of the preceding constitutional declarations bearing on the constituent people's assembly and expansion of its areas of competence;

The command council decree on Law 78 for 1976 concerning religious endowments;

The command council decree on Law 63 for 1977 regarding the organization of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance and amendments to it;

Command Council Decree 99 for 1975 on the establishment and organization of the office of indoctrination and general guidance;

On the basis of a presentation by the minister of religious endowments and guidance;

And following the agreement of the Council of Ministers:

The constituent people's assembly has ratified the law whose text follows and we have approved and issued it:

Goals, General Areas of Competence and Major Subdivisions of the Ministry's Organizational Structure and Its Areas of Competence

Article One. The Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance will be reorganized in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article Two. The Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance has as its objective the realization of the following:

A. Performance of the mission of religious endowments, the preservation and supervision of all endowed money and assets in kind and the protection, administration, investment and development of them in a manner which will bring benefit to everything on whose behalf they were endowed, in a manner which will realize the goals the founders of the endowment have stipulated, out of various considerations of piety.

B. Performance in the light of the general policy of the government of the duties of guidance and indoctrination, the spread of Islamic culture in a manner which will bring about the deepening of Islamic belief and the immunization and protection of the citizens from matters which violate the principles of the pure Islamic religion.

Article Three. The ministry, for the sake of attainment of its goals, will engage in the following missions and areas of competence:

1. Administer mosques and places of public worship and seek to raise their level and improve their conditions in a manner which will make them suited to the holding of religious observances in them.
2. Administer and organize the affairs of public religious endowments regarding which oversight by the minister of religious endowments is stipulated.
3. Perform a census of all the properties of religious endowments, enumerate and document their real properties, preserve, maintain and develop them and adopt all measures which will ensure that their interests are guaranteed and their survival continues, while setting out a record and map showing the endowed assets, their area and their sites in the various provinces of the republic.
4. Follow up the receipt of revenues of religious endowments at their specified times and retain the registers necessary for that.
5. Direct the religious endowments' expenditures in a manner which will fulfill the conditions of the person giving the endowment in accordance with the provisions of lofty Islamic law, including the maintenance and outfitting of mosques, their care, the establishment of facilities and philanthropic organizations and various acts of piety and good work.
6. Establish mosques and places of public worship and grant permits to establish them, in coordination with the entities concerned.
7. Set out plans and projects for making use of all the religious endowments' resources and operate them in accordance with the most modern methods

and most successful techniques, thereby contributing to government projects aimed at social and economic development.

8. Without prejudice to the continued flow of revenues of religious endowments on cemeteries to the account of the general government treasury, the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance will, in public trust, administer, regulate and protect the religious endowments of cemeteries and keep them separate in their own records, will submit their accounts every year to the Ministry of Finance and supply their annual revenues to the general government treasury.

9. Perform, in public trust, the administration, regulation and protection of health religious endowments in their own registers, submit their accounts to the Ministry of Finance and supply their annual revenues to the general government treasury for every year, for their disbursement to the people entitled to them.

10. Supervise, oversee and protect religious endowments related to the public interest in which supervision by one of the people entitled to them is cited as a condition, through registration and accounting only, in the manner shown in Law 78 on Religious Endowments for 1976 without infringement of the public or private trust over them with respect to the establishment, development, maintenance and preservation of the asset of the religious endowment, and disbursement of its revenues as has been stipulated by the endower, in the manner stipulated by the law on religious endowments with respect to the activities the trustee may perform, which will continue to devolve on the people to whom they are registered by law, in accordance with the legal rules and bases stipulated in the law on religious endowments.

11. Participate in the development of Islamic awareness and the general propagation and implantation of Islamic education and morality in the public and private lives of the citizens.

12. Direct exhortation and guidance in a sound Islamic manner and supervise its course in a manner which will guarantee the enlightenment of the people in the principles of the pure Islamic religion and their religious and national duty in a manner which will bring about good interaction among citizens in the building of the family and society, in a manner corresponding with the Islamic morality which the goals of the revolution and the contents of the national charter have embodied.

13. Devote attention to the enlightenment of women in an Islamic manner aimed at preserving their place so that they will be able to perform their important role and engage in the pursuit of their responsibilities toward the family and society.

14. Supervise the printing of the holy Koran, review the copies published and grant permission for their distribution, in addition to all printed materials related to the Islamic heritage in coordination with the entities concerned.

15. Supervise the memorization of the holy Koran in the schools belonging to mosques and public places of worship in coordination with the Ministry of Education.

16. Administer pilgrimage affairs and everything related to the organization of the pilgrimage, and seek to provide comfort for pilgrims.

17. Seek to accredit givers of exhortation, guides and givers of sermons through the higher institute of guidance, meet the country's requirements for them, supervise them, the imams in mosques and places of public worship and the callers to prayer and custodians in them and issue statutes and instructions necessary to regulate their activities, in accordance with the plan approved by the higher council of religious endowments and guidance.

18. Supervise the establishment of cemeteries, the placement of walls around them and their maintenance and protection, in coordination and participation with the competent body in the government.

Article Four. The main subdivisions of the organizational structure of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance and the area of competence of each will be defined as follows:

First, the higher council of religious endowments and guidance, which will be drawn up as follows:

1. The minister of religious endowments and guidance, as chairman.
2. The deputy minister of religious endowments and guidance, as member.
3. The chairman of the society of Yemeni learned men, as member.
4. The mufti of the republic, as member.
5. The chairman of the supreme court for contestation and affirmation, as member.
6. The deputy minister of finance, as member.
7. The deputy minister of justice, as member.
8. The deputy minister of municipalities and housing, as member.
9. The deputy chairman of the central planning agency, as member.
10. The deputy minister of information and culture, as member.
11. The deputy minister of education, as member.
12. The assistant deputy minister of religious endowments and guidance for the sector of religious endowments, as member.
13. The assistant deputy minister of religious endowments and guidance for the sector of orientation and guidance, as member.

The council will be competent to draw up general policy in the area of religious endowments and guidance in the framework of the general policy of the

government, approve disbursements of the money of religious endowments in accordance with legal justifications, approve the plan to examine, print and publish books of the Islamic heritage, foremost among them endowed manuscripts in the libraries of the ministry, give agreement to the drafts of bills related to activity in the ministry, the authority to issue which will belong to the minister, and also give agreement to the draft budget of religious endowments, approve their final accounts and approve investment plans and projects and their contexts, plans and projects related to exhortation and guidance, and also the drafts of laws and bills organizing the affairs of religious endowments and guidance. The executive bill to this law will show all other tasks over which the council will have the right to have jurisdiction.

Second, the minister:

He is the highest authority in the ministry and the person responsible for the execution of general government policy in the area of the goals and areas of competence of the ministry. He will exercise the power of setting out policies and plans on which the various agencies of the ministry will proceed, supervising them and following up on their execution, with attention to the contents of the first paragraph of this article. He will have every authority and power to realize the goals of the ministry and pursue its areas of competence in the framework of this law and the laws and bills in effect in the government. The following will be directly subordinate to the minister:

1. The higher institute of guidance. This will pursue its areas of competence in accordance with the law of its establishment.
2. The general department of statistics, planning and followup. This will be competent to do the following:
 1. Prepare the draft general plan of the ministry and the programs of action derived from it, follow up on them and evaluate their results.
 2. Study and investigate means to guarantee the development of activity in the ministry from all aspects in the two sectors of the ministry and articulate significant recommendations for that.
 3. Collect and study the statistics and data necessary for setting out plans and programs bearing on the ministry.
 4. Have the general departments in the ministry notify their offices about the drafts of the general plan that are being executed in order to effect their execution.
 5. Follow up on the execution of the approved plans and prepare reports on the course of their execution in accordance with the instructions issued in this regard.
6. All other tasks the minister assigns it in this regard.

7. This department will pursue its areas of competence in a manner which is compatible with the goals of the general plan of the government and does not conflict with the laws in effect in the country.

3. The office of the ministry. This will have jurisdiction over the following:

1. Regulating activities and issues which are presented to the minister, presenting them to him and receiving his directives and decisions in their regard.

2. Notifying the entities concerned of the minister's decrees and directives, following up on their execution, preparing periodic reports on the results of the followup and presentation to the minister.

3. Preparing financial and administrative inspection programs in the ministry and its offices in the provinces and following up on their execution following their approval by the minister.

4. Preparing memorandums regarding subjects prepared for presentation to the Council of Ministers or the higher council of religious endowments and guidance, or the committees arising from these two councils or any other council in which the minister is a member. The preparation of these memoranda will be in coordination with the competent persons in the ministry.

5. Preparing for the ministry's meetings with visiting delegations and recommending the technical committees necessary for such meetings.

6. Participating with the general department of statistics, planning and followup in the study of technical and administrative reports related to sectoral activity in the ministry and the higher institute for guidance, and presenting them to the minister.

7. Organizing the minister's meetings inside and outside the ministry, preparing a schedule for them and presenting that to the minister.

8. Performing secretarial activities and maintaining the files bearing on the minister's office.

9. Following up on the preparation of responses to all periodic and annual reports received from the central oversight and accounting agency, the ministry's offices in the provinces and other official entities concerned.

10. Performing all activities related to internal and external relations as well as media and press activities and all other activities the minister may assign to it.

Third, the deputy minister:

He will assist the minister in engaging in his areas of competence in accordance with the stipulations of a decree issued by the minister. He will also take the minister's place in his absence. The general department of

financial and administrative affairs will be directly subordinate to him and he will pursue activity in it in accordance with what the minister assigns to him.

Fourth, the assistant deputy minister for the sector of religious endowments; the assistant deputy minister for the guidance and enlightenment sector:

Each of them will engage in the areas of competence assigned to the assistant deputy minister stipulated in the law on government employees and other laws and bills in effect. Each of them will supervise the sector he heads.

Fifth, the sector of religious endowments, which will engage in the following areas of specialization:

A. Supervise the administration of mosques, raise their level and improve their conditions in a manner which will make them suited to the holding of religious observances in them.

B. Tabulate and document all lands and real properties of public religious endowments as well as cemetery endowments and health endowments and consign them all separately to a special register, in accordance with modern methods of tabulation. To that end it may seek the aid of the competent bodies, in particular the survey and real estate registry department.

C. Follow up on the receipt of all revenues and income from these lands and real properties stipulated in the previous paragraph.

D. Tabulate, construct, repair, maintain and outfit all mosques in the republic.

E. Supervise all investments of surplus revenues from public religious endowments and execution of projects.

F. Supervise, oversee and protect religious endowments related to the public benefit in which oversight by one of the persons entitled to them is stipulated, with execution of the contents of Paragraph 10 of Article Three of this law with respect to the nature of supervisory work, and the same with regard to private or public trust over them and the nature of their work.

G. Coordinate and participate with the competent entities in the government in the area of supervision of the establishment of cemeteries, placement of fences around them and their maintenance and protection.

The sector of religious endowments is composed of the following general departments:

1. The general department of religious endowment lands and real properties.
2. The general department of revenues.
3. The general department of mosque affairs.

4. The general department of investment, projects and maintenance.

1. The general department of religious endowment lands and real properties; this is competent to do the following:

A. Retain all religious endowment documents in special file rooms in a sound manner which will prevent their waste or loss and record these documents in special registers.

B. Tabulate all the assets of public religious endowments in the form of farmland, vacant lots, buildings, groves and other endowed objects.

C. Tabulate all assets of cemetery religious endowments and health endowments in special registers for these.

D. Maintain organized registers on all types of the assets mentioned above, in which thorough data will be set down regarding the religious endowment assets in accordance with the statutes and bills issued on them by decree of the minister, on the basis of a presentation by the assistant deputy minister for the religious endowments sector.

E. Follow up on and maintain all rented buildings belonging to the ministry.

F. Follow up on religious endowments which have been taken over and take measures to guarantee their restoration.

G. Prepare studies bearing on the exchange or sale of endowed assets and submit these to the minister preparatory to their presentation to the higher council.

H. Supervise and oversee religious endowments related to the public interest in which surveillance by one of the persons entitled to them is stipulated, while taking into consideration the contents of Paragraph 10 of Article Three of this law concerning the nature of the activity of supervision and also the issue of their private or public trust and the nature of their activity.

2. The general department of revenues; this is competent to do the following:

A. Prepare studies and research regarding everything related to the revenues of lands, real properties, wells and groves of religious endowments and so forth, including cemetery religious endowments and health religious endowments, and recommend means for guaranteeing the control and increase of their revenues, with attention to the special assignment of studies bearing on cemetery religious endowments and health religious endowments.

B. Recommend instructions, laws and forms of registers and statutes bearing on the collection of these revenues in coordination with the general department of financial and administrative affairs.

C. Follow up on the receipt of revenues from lands and real properties of religious endowments by various means, directly and indirectly, with the

cooperation of the general department of financial and administrative affairs.

D. Monitor the ministry's offices in the provinces and the workers, deputies, overseers and collectors of these revenues, and hold them to account annually or upon need for that.

E. Prepare studies and express views regarding everything related to the stipulation of the value of rents for real properties and the value of the accelerated rental of lands in a manner will realize the interests of the religious endowment, and present this to the minister.

3. The general department of mosque affairs; this is competent to do the following:

A. Tabulate all the mosques in the republic, classify them in accordance with the entity of their establishment and record that in special registers.

B. Monitor and tabulate all mosques which are in need of maintenance, repair, outfitting, the provision of furniture or additions, inform the competent department in the ministry of that and follow up on these improvements until they are completed.

C. Supply citizens who want to establish mosques or public places of worship or provide them with furniture with the necessary memoranda to the competent entities in the government, and urge them to allocate religious endowments for these, with expenditure on these mosques and places of worship to be from their revenues.

D. Prepare designs and standards specifications for public places of worship and mosques in cooperation with the competent department in the ministry and supply people who want them upon demand.

E. Nominate imams for mosques and places of worship, caretakers for them and givers of the call to prayer in them in coordination with the general department of financial and administrative affairs, supervise their activities and recommend statutes bearing on their duties and wages, with the provision that a decree be issued on that by the minister following the agreement of the higher council of religious endowments and guidance.

F. Supervise all sanitation work in mosques and public places of worship.

G. Supply mosques and public places of worship with the water, electricity and so forth that they require in coordination with financial and administrative affairs.

H. Supply mosques and public places of worship with Korans and books of interpretation, traditions of the prophet, jurisprudence and so forth and establish small private libraries in some large public places of worship in coordination with the financial and administrative affairs [department].

I. Participate and coordinate with the competent government entity in supervising the maintenance and protection of cemeteries.

4. The general department of investment, projects and maintenance; this is competent to do the following:

A. Prepare studies and research related to the subject of the investment of surplus public religious endowment revenues and submit its recommendations in this regard in accordance with the interests of the religious endowment, in accordance with what is allowed by lofty Islamic law.

B. Supervise the establishment and execution of construction projects the ministry performs in accordance with the laws and decrees in effect in this regard, in addition to the activities of maintenance and repair of mosques, public places of worship and all ministry installations.

C. Prepare designs and standards specifications for all mosques, public places of worship, buildings, farms and the like which the ministry wants to establish.

D. Prepare research and studies regarding the subjects the minister assigns to it.

E. Supervise the establishment of cemeteries and the placement of walls around them, in participation and coordination with the competent entities in the government.

Sixth, the sector of religious guidance and indoctrination, which will engage in the following areas of competence:

A. Supervise the execution of guidance, indoctrination and enlightenment plans and programs in mosques, places of public worship and other locations.

B. Coordinate with the higher institute of guidance in the preparation of people belonging to the guidance sector in accordance with the country's requirements for them.

C. Nominate givers of exhortation, guides and givers of sermons, to cover the ministry's need.

D. Prepare for participation in Islamic conferences inside and outside the country in coordination with the entities concerned.

E. Supervise the printing of the holy Koran, grant permission for the distribution of it and printed copies of it which might exist in the markets, after confirming their validity, and supervise their retention in schools which belong to mosques and places of public worship, in coordination with the entities concerned.

F. Perform the printing and dissemination of Islamic culture and books which are related to the Islamic heritage, in coordination with the entities concerned.

G. Supervise the ministry's libraries and preserve and maintain their contents, in accordance with the conditions of the persons endowing them.

The sector of guidance and indoctrination will consist of the two following general departments:

1. The general department of exhortation and guidance.
2. The general department of publication.

One, the general department of exhortation and guidance, which will be competent to do the following:

A. Recommend the necessary plans and programs in the realm of exhortation and guidance in a manner which will lead to the deepening of Islamic belief and awareness of the provisions of Islamic law among citizens and their protection and immunization from matters in violation of the principles of the pure Islamic religion.

B. Set out plans and programs to provide women with Islamic enlightenment with the goal of preserving their status as defined in Islamic law and enlightening them to engage in their responsibility toward family and society.

C. Execute plans and programs bearing on exhortation and guidance and the enlightenment of women after their approval by the higher council of religious endowments and guidance.

D. Coordinate with the higher institute for guidance in training, teaching and accrediting givers of exhortation, guides and givers of sermons in the light of the approved plan for the country's qualitative and quantitative requirements for them.

E. Nominate givers of exhortation, guides and givers of sermons whom the ministry needs and supervise their activity.

F. Supervise memorization of the holy Koran in schools which belong to mosques and places of public worship.

G. Establish festivals and seminars on religious and other occasions and broadcast and propagate them through all the various media, in coordination with the entities concerned.

H. Prepare for Islamic conferences in which the ministry takes part domestically and abroad.

I. Work to administer pilgrimage affairs and everything related to the organization of the pilgrimage and work to ensure the comfort of pilgrims in coordination and cooperation with the entities concerned.

Two, the general department of publication, which will be competent to do the following:

A. Print and disseminate Islamic culture in magazines and bulletins the ministry issues in the light of the policy the higher council of religious endowments and guidance approves.

B. Execute, print and publish books of the Islamic heritage, especially by means of the works of the scholars of Yemen the ministry's libraries contain, on the basis of the policy the higher council of religious endowments and guidance approves, in coordination with the entities concerned.

C. Prepare and print the holy Koran, oversee copies of it which might be available in the markets, review their printing to affirm their validity, give permission for their distribution and take legal measures with the goal of preventing transactions in holy texts which might be distorted by any error.

D. Organize and administer the ministry's libraries, catalogue them by the most modern scholarly methods and preserve and maintain their contents in accordance with the conditions of the persons endowing them.

Seven, the general department of financial and administrative affairs, which will be competent to do the following:

A. Recommend plans and programs which are aimed at raising the competence of the administrative performance of the ministry and its offices in participation with the departments concerned and follow up on their execution after their approval.

B. Prepare the draft budget of the ministry and its offices and also the draft final accounts in accordance with the laws, decrees, bills and statutes in effect.

C. Keep the ministry's accounts, provided that the accounts of the sector of religious endowments be independent of the accounts of the guidance sector.

D. Determine the manpower requirements of the ministry and its branches qualitatively and quantitatively and in terms of level, take the measures to meet these requirements and apply the laws, decrees, bills and instructions that have been issued regarding their employment affairs.

E. Follow up on the collection of the revenues of public religious endowments and also endowments of cemeteries and health endowments, in turn, in coordination with the competent departments in the ministry and provide the competent department in the ministry with the necessary information on the amount of revenues.

F. Keep separate accounts for cemetery endowments and health endowments in their own records, provide the Ministry of Finance with their accounts and supply their revenues to the general government treasury.

G. Disburse the budget allocations of the religious endowments and guidance sector.

H. Determine the ministry's requirements for supplies, equipment, furniture, office materials and the like, purchase them and take measures for storing and disbursing them in accordance with the laws, bills and decrees in effect.

I. Carry out matters related to the ministry's purchases and warehouses in accordance with the laws bearing on that.

J. Carry out file activities bearing on incoming and outgoing correspondence, follow up on the measures for handling them and retain them in accordance with the statutes that have been stipulated in this regard.

K. Copy and print correspondence, memoranda and reports submitted to it by departments within the ministry and distribute the internal and external decrees and publications the ministry issues, while classifying, categorizing and numbering them and keeping copies of them, in a manner facilitating reference to them upon need.

L. Carry out and operate internal administrative services for the ministry and maintain vehicles and all other material and equipment.

Eight, the offices of the ministry in the provinces:

Each of the ministry's offices in the provinces and the capital secretariat will engage in the areas of competence assigned to the ministries' offices and a decree will be issued by the minister defining and organizing that, provided that the level of each office be set at the level of a general department.

General Provisions

Article Five. The Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance will have a legal personality with an independent financial obligation and an annual budget will be prepared for it which will be attached to the general government budget as one of the budgets appended to it. Its surplus reserves will be carried over from any of its financial year accounts to the next. The guidance sector will have a budget within the general government budget. The rules for executing the general budget of the government will be applied to all that.

Article Six. The general budget of the government will defray the salaries, allowances and compensations of the minister, his deputy, the two assistant deputy ministers, its counsellor and its employees engaged in the area of guidance, and all its employees will be subject to the law on government employees and civil service legislation. Pension instalments will be deducted from their salaries for the account of the retirement fund, in accordance with the law bearing on that and the stipulations of the administrative and financial statutes and bills in effect.

Article Seven. Command council decree on Law 63 for 1977 regarding the organization of the Ministry of Religious Endowments and its amendment will be abrogated, as well as Command Council Decree 99 for 1975 establishing and organizing the general office of indoctrination and guidance and every provision conflicting with the provisions of this law.

Article Eight. All people working in the general office of indoctrination and guidance will be transferred to the Ministry of Religious Endowments and

Guidance and all credits allocated to it will be transferred to the ministry. All the office's moveable and immoveable properties will also become the property of the ministry.

Article Nine. The executive bill to this law will be issued by decree of the prime minister, following agreement of the Council of Ministers, on the basis of a presentation by the minister of religious endowments and guidance.

Article 10. The minister of religious endowments and guidance will issue the bill bearing on the wages and duties of imams of mosques and public places of worship, their caretakers and people giving the call to prayer in them, following the agreement of the higher council of religious endowments and guidance. The minister will also issue a decree defining the branch subdivisions and their areas of competence after receiving the view of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform and will issue all decrees, regulations and bills necessary for carrying out the provisions of this law in a manner which does not conflict with its provisions.

Article 11. This law will be in effect as of the date of its issuance and it will be published in AL-JARIDAH AL-RASMIYAH.

Issued at the republican palace in Sanaa on 7 February 1987.

[Signed] Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih

President, Commander General of the Armed Forces, Secretary General of the General People's Conference.

11887

CSO: 4404/254

AFGHAN GUERRILLAS DISCUSS AID NEEDS

Tehran KAYHAN AL-ARABI in Arabic 6 Dec 86 p 5

[Text] Afghan Islamic Jihad Movement's Relations with Other Countries Discussed

In the first part, we familiarized ourselves with the viewpoint of Hojjat ol-Eslam Zahedi, representative of the Afghan Islamic Jihad Guard, on a partial withdrawal of the Russian aggression forces from Afghanistan. In the following, we will discuss how the Islamic countries deal with the Afghan Jihad Movement and the Afghan mujahidun's relations with other countries, be they the evil countries or their agent states. This issue is significant both legally and politically.

The major powers, especially the evil forces, aspire to establish relations with the Afghan Islamic Jihad and numerous fingers are trying to distort the reputation of the Afghan Islamic Jihad Movement and to depict it as an agent movement tied to foreigners.

In the following, you will be familiarized with the viewpoints of a number of representatives of the Afghan mujahidun on this issue. These representatives were interviewed by JUMHURI ISLAMI.

[Question] We beg Mr Musavi "Abdulwajid to tell us about how the Islamic countries deal with the Afghan Islamic revolution?

['Abdulwajid] God protect us from the Evil One, the Rejected One, and in the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate: Regarding the Islamic countries' reaction to the Afghan issue and the Afghan revolution, we must make a distinction between the movements, peoples, and governments. As you are aware, the governments have not generally done their legal Islamic duty and they merit our censure. The Islamic Republic of Iran heads the Islamic countries that have contributed to crystallizing the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan and that have helped the Afghan mujahidun materially and morally. Of course, Iran is waging a war now and when this war ends, we will expect more from the Islamic Republic than from all the Islamic peoples.

[Question] Does the aid the Afghan mujahidun get from the independent Islamic countries, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, constitute a blow to the Afghan Jihad Movement?

['Abdulwajed] There are varied viewpoints on this issue. There are those who accept this opinion and those who call for categorizing countries because some countries have some characteristics that make dealing with them harmless. But what are these characteristics and does the Islamic Republic of Iran have them?

Regarding the countries from which the Afghan mujahidun may obtain aid and support, we say that countries must be categorized. There are Islamic countries that worship God. When an infidel country attacks an Islamic country, all Muslims, especially those neighboring the Muslim country subjected to aggression, must rise to help. This is a religious Islamic duty. Advancing aid to a country subjected to aggression is a legal religious duty. This is a general principle of Islam. Such aid must not be considered similar to the aid some Muslims obtain from the United States and Britain.

Through such aid, the United States and Britain seek to impose their control on the oppressed countries. Some people may say: Well, let us get aid from the imperialist countries, such as the United States and Britain, and then deceive them and prevent them from imposing their imperialist objectives and schemes on us. We tell such people: No, because these countries are the devils of the age and we cannot deceive them unless we possess the same power they have in connection with the international issues. We, the mujahidun, possess nothing but faith.

Mr Hashimi from the United Front of the Afghan Islamic Revolution:

"We cannot say decisively that we may get aid from such and such a country and not from this or that country. The struggle is not a struggle between the Afghans and the Russians. The war being waged by Iran is not against the Iraqis and the war in Lebanon is not between Lebanon and Israel. The war is a war of faith and method. When the question of the "compassionate amongst each other" rises, all barriers and obstacles disappear and the giving and taking of aid become a duty.

"If we refrain from taking aid from a country such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and if this refrainment leads to the failure of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan, then who would be responsible? As for the other countries, especially the Islamic countries, Saudi Arabia is the richest Middle Eastern country. Should we take aid from King Fahd?

I say that because we are fighting for God, we must get our dues from the Saudi oil fields. But do they not give us our due? So how can we take it? This is another issue.

I don't believe that a governmental revolution is a part of our method or is the essence of our movement. We do not accept such a revolution. When any revolution becomes a government revolution under any circumstance and at any time, it is our duty to turn that government into a revolutionary government. The governments we wish to set up in the world are revolutionary governments.

We don't want government revolutions. In Iran, the Islamic revolution has triumphed. Consequently, the government will be a revolutionary government following the path of Islam.

"We want the world to be ruled by revolutionary governments. The current circumstances do not help eliminate the obstacles and barriers created by colonialism. But we will work to set up such Islamic revolutions. This is insofar as relations with the Islamic world are concerned. But what about accepting aid from non-Islamic countries, such as the United States? We are currently engaged in a war against the Russians. If we extend our hands to the United States, then our war is not a revolution and is not jihad. Should those engaged in a war against the United States extend their hands to Russia, they will lose their revolutionary originality because determination is what makes a revolution triumphant. We don't believe that the Russian want Islam to triumph in the world. Those in Lebanon or elsewhere in the Islamic world who believe that establishing friendly relations with the Russians is likely to make Islam triumph in these countries should reexamine their view of Islam.

"The same goes for those who believe that establishing friendly relations with the United States in a certain part of the world is likely to make Islam triumph in that part. These people must also reexamine their view of Islam. The Muslim Afghan people have not been an instrument in the hands of the Russians and will not be an instrument in the hands of the United States. To the moment, these people have not been fighting with U.S. aid.

"There remains one request I wish to make of the revolutionary brother Muslims in Iran, namely that they declare their support and aid to the Muslim Afghan people. Is it impermissible to aid the Afghan revolutionaries? The United States falsely declares that it has advanced hundreds of million of dollars in aid to the Afghan refugees. When the Islamic Republic of Iran advances aid to the Afghan refugees, then this aid is, of course a right which the Afghan Islamic revolution is entitled to get from every member of the Iranian people.

"We accept any aid Iran offers the Afghan revolution. There are 1 million Afghan workers in Iran. But we find that other countries confine such refugees behind barbed wire and in camps.

"In Iran, there is an Afghan family next to each Iranian family. The truth is that Iran has a record number of refugees in its territories.

"We must make known the aid the Islamic Republic of Iran gives the Muslim Afghan people and the Afghan revolution."

Maulavi Gul Rani from the Association of Ulema in (Biranch):

"In the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate. We thank Him and pray for His prophet and for all of the prophet's kinsmen and companions: I support what Maulavi Sahibzadah and Hashimi have said. I add that because the war in Afghanistan and the resistance in which the struggling Afghan people are engaged in a war and a resistance for God, for reviving God's rule, and

religious duty of all Muslims in the world to give their aid. Because the Muslim Afghan people are subjected to a tyrannical aggression launched by the world's most brutal force, everybody with feelings and compassion must, even if he has no religion, provide the Afghan people with the necessary aid as a humanitarian duty.

"Any aid founded on humanitarian and Islamic motives is permitted by the Shari'ah. But if the aid is founded on political motives, political exploitation, and other objectives, then such aid must not be accepted, regardless of whether offered by Islamic or non-Islamic countries.

"But in this phase, accepting aid from non-Islamic countries is not undamaging because the Afghan mujahidin have not yet been able to form their organizations and adopt a unified policy."

Maulavi 'Abdulhayy, a supporter of al-Mahdi:

"In name of God, the Merciful: The acquisition of aid depends on the party that accepts such aid and on the party that offers it.

"The party which takes the aid must not be tied to or be an agent of the party that offers it, as was the case of Zahir Khan who had relations with the Russians and who consequently, followed their course.

"Moreover, such aid depends on the party or country that offers it. We would be deceiving ourselves if we said that we could obtain humanitarian aid from the United States. The least that the United States can do in case its aid is accepted is to publicize in its media that the Muslim Afghans fight the Soviets with U.S. aid."

Mr Zahedi from the Afghan Islamic Revolution Guard:

"There are several points that must not escape our attention. First, we believe that there is no country in the world which offers another country aid without regard for its financial and military resources and without having a certain objective behind the offer of such aid. When the United States, China, France, and other countries offer aid to others, they seek to achieve a certain objective. The Islamic Republic of Iran has a certain objective also. The second point is that religion may be exploited for imperialist objectives, as science is used to enslave and exploit peoples.

But the objectives sought by the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, are Islamic objectives. The aid Iran offers is for the achievement of Islamic objectives. Iran's objectives in Afghanistan are to set up Islamic rule and to apply Koranic law there. We are also sacrificing for this objective and have endured numerous hardships and catastrophes, as well as evictions, for this objective. We need aid and support. Requesting aid creates some sort of subservience, meaning that the party requesting the aid and support becomes subservient to the party that advances the aid. This is normal. But let us see who the party offering this aid is. It is the Islamic Republic of Iran and what this republic wants at present is that objective for which we

are sacrificing our lives. Thus, experience has proven that the infidel countries, be they those who raise the slogan of human rights or of socialism, those who embrace communism or those who raise the slogan of nationalism--experience has proven that all these slogans are deceptive slogans. But we accept the aid of such countries, provided that we consider it a kind of spoils. But all or the major part of the aid the Islamic Republic of Iran gives us is not aid but rather funds that belong to us."

8494/12951

CSO: 4604/12

AFGHANI REBEL COMMANDER HEKMATYAR INTERVIEWED

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 20 Jan 87 pp 26-28

[Interview with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar: "America Supports Soviet Presence in Our Country! Geneva Talks Will not Lead to Useful Results"; in Peshawar; date not specified]

[Text] AL-MUJTAMA' met with freedom fighter Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a commander of the Afghani Jihad against the Russians and their communist surrogates. The meeting took place at the house of an Afghani cause advocate in the Peshawar district on the Pakistani-Afghani borders. He was asked about the latest news about the Jihad and the Mujahidin and about the recent victories. Discussions then led to the Mujahidin's situation and problems inside and outside Afghanistan and what the Muslims are expected to do for their brethren in Afghanistan.

Following is the text of the interview:

[Question] What is the latest news about the Jihad in Afghanistan?

[Answer] Thank God, last November the Mujahidin scored great victories. They captured the "Kajar" county in the Jalalabad district from the Russians and the Afghani communists and in "Baghlan" all 1,500 soliders and militia members of the Andarab county joined the Mujahidin with all their weapons and munitions. All districts in Andarab, save one still under Russian control, have been captured. The Farkhan district, that had less than a Russian battalion, has been captured by the Mujahidin and in Jawab Khowst, where the "Malan" battalion is stationed, the soldiers killed their officers and went over with their weapons to the Mujahidin. In the Nahrayn district, the Mujahidin attacked the Russian forces, under a battalion, and captured all their weapons, including three tanks and about 1,000 pieces of weapons; 450 communist soliders were killed and not a single one escaped. Two weeks ago, toward the end of November, 4 helicopters were downed over Nangarhar and one over Khowst. And notwithstanding the big attack on Mujahidin positions in Qandahar, Russian losses have been heavy, thank God, including about 400 tanks, jeeps and armored vehicles. Over 300 soldiers with their weapons have joined the Mujahidin and a large number of Russians and Afghani agents have been killed. The Mujahidin attacked Golbahar where the enemy lost 8 tanks. In Kabul, the Mujahidin bombed the Ministry of Education shortly before a

press conference was to be held. Najibullah was supposed to attend this conference, but the explosion went off a few minutes before his arrival and 13 of his security officers were killed, but he escaped injury. This month alone, great victories were achieved, thank God.

[Question] What about the recent Russian pullout that was publicized last month?

[Answer] Not true. I believe that the Russians are now trying to push India into an attack on Pakistan and I imagine that they have failed in their attempts. In my opinion, if India does not attack Pakistan, the Russians will not be able to stay in Afghanistan and will have no chance there.

[Question] Do you expect India to attack Pakistan, particularly in the wake of Gorbachev's recent visit to India?

[Answer] There are currently about 200,000 Indian soliders along the Pakistani borders and an attack is possible. But I believe that the internal situation in India is unstable. Witness the Sikh issue with the government and relations with Bangladesh. All these do not allow India to attack Pakistan.

[Question] We have heard and read that the Afghani Mujahidin control large areas. Is this true?

[Answer] Yes, we control, thank God, about 90 percent of Afghani territory.

[Question] Rumor has it that the Mujahidin have formed a government in exile. How true is that?

[Answer] We do not want to form a government in exile. Those who announced the formation of such a government have nothing to do with the resistance. A government in exile is of no benefit to us.

[Question] It is feared that the Afghani Jihad may be "stolen" as happened in Algeria where the revolution was Islamic and the martyrs were Muslim, then it was wrenched away by the other forces?

[Answer] I hope this is not possible in Afghanistan. I think that the non-Islamic entities are finished and the only force left in the Afghani resistance is the Mujahidin. There are no leftist or nationalist tendencies. All the Mujahidin are Muslims, thank God.

[Question] We have heard about American contacts with former king Zaher Shah to bring about his return. Is it true that America wants to reinstate King Zaher Shah to power in Afghanistan?

[Answer] Yes. There are contacts between him and the Russians as well. He invited a number of his colleagues and ministers to Kabul and, after reaching an understanding, they went back. Among them were Samad Hamid, the president of Kabul University and deputy prime minister in the Zaher Shah regime. The Americans and Russians may agree on his return and may bring him back and

support him or his son, Ahmed Shah. This is a very strong possibility.

[Question] If this were to take place, what would happen?

[Answer] If Zaher Shah or his son were to come to power, he would need 230,000 Russian soldiers to stay in power. Zaher Shah, in the opinion of the Americans and Russians, is acceptable to the people and to some neighboring countries that have an interest in the Afghani cause. Moreover, they imagine that this may be acceptable to some Mujahidin organizations. In a press conference held in Moscow in the last few days, and attended by an Indian journalist and a Russian advisor on the Afghanistan question, the latter said: "We have contacts with some organizations outside Afghanistan that do not want an Islamic rule, among them is Guilani with whom we have good relations and for whom we have hopes." This was published in an Indian newspaper and was carried by one of the leading Pakistani newspapers, JUNG. They imagine that if Zaher Shah were to return, the problem would be solved. But, with God's help, only a Mujahidin government can be formed in Afghanistan if the Russians leave our land.

[Question] Approximately how many Soviet troops are there in Afghanistan?

[Answer] There are 230,000 Russian soldiers.

[Question] What is your vision of a peaceful solution? I believe that some Mujahidin commanders are going in that direction.

[Answer] Our position on a peaceful solution to the Afghani question and the negotiations now under way between the Pakistani government and the surrogate government in Afghanistan is that these negotiations are taking place between sides that are not bona fide or principal players in the struggle. The bona fide and principal sides are the Mujahidin and the Russians. Furthermore, we have nothing to negotiate with the Russians until their immediate and unconditional withdrawal is carried out. Before then, there is no basis for negotiations. How can we negotiate while 230,000 Russian soldiers are on our land? This is our position and I think that the negotiations currently under way will not yield any useful results and are unacceptable to us.

[Question] I would like to ask about the visit Jihad commander Burhanuddin Rabbani undertook to America, and how do you envisage American participation in the solution?

[Answer] I think it is better to ask Rabbani himself because he is the one who visited America. We do not approve of this visit because it was contrary to our wishes and created bad publicity for the Mujahidin. The Russians benefitted from this visit from which they gathered that America was helping the Mujahidin. Up until then, they did not have any evidence to raise such claims. Now they are drawing conclusions from Rabbani's visit to America.

[Question] How true are the reports circulated every now and then about America supplying the Mujahidin with arms and money?

[Answer] America is helping Pakistan and wants the Russians to stay in

Afghanistan to use this chance to attack the Russians around the world. Therefore, they are spreading this propaganda to encourage the Russians to stay in Afghanistan.

[Question] Then these reports are totally false?

[Answer] Without a doubt. They are only for propaganda.

[Question] What are the most important problems the Mujahidin face inside Afghanistan?

[Answer] The problems are many. As you know, the entire Afghani people have been in a state of constant war for over 8 years. We have 5 million emigres, 1.1 million martyrs and a large number of wounded and 5 million displaced people inside Afghanistan who left their homes for the mountains and valleys. Relocation inside Afghanistan from villages and cities to the mountains is still going on and we have the problem of drought. Many of the areas suffer from drought brought about by the Russians. They destroy houses and plow the harvest under and there is nothing left in the liberated areas. We are facing difficulty in this regard in the interior and the food problem has developed into a serious one. You must know that a kilo of wheat costs about 5 Saudi riyals, or \$1.50, to be transported to some areas in the interior. In some villages, families find it difficult to invite two persons for bread alone. One Mujahid said that he passed by four Mujahidin bases and could not find bread to eat. The truth is that the bread shortage is the biggest problem facing the Mujahidin today, in addition to the shortage of ulemas and preachers because most of those who carried out Jihad were Islamic movement members and ulemas have died in action and the second generation cannot find a school, mosque or theologian or even a father to educate and raise them. Consequently, they may have to go 10 kilometers inside Afghanistan at times to find someone able to conduct funeral services. This is truly a big problem that requires preachers with awareness who were raised in the Islamic movement and know how to preach the word of God.

Our problems are those of war. The Russians do not hesitate to destroy villages and burn down farms. They wait till the crop is ready for cultivation and then come with napalm bombs to burn the farms. The result is famine in the area. Nowadays, when the Mujahidin report their losses to the command, they state, for example, 5 killed and "grain field" burned. To them, a grain field is equal to 50 martyrs.

This is in addition to the international conferences on the Afghani question.

[Question] What about the union among Jihad factions in Afghanistan?

[Answer] We began our Jihad with a disunited people, a splintered people, like all other Islamic peoples. This is a tribal legacy, for Afghanistan has over 300 tribes which now make up large tribes that represent the Jihad groups. We began the Islamic movement amidst such a people and have succeeded in reaching this level of unity. We hope to attain full unity and are going forward day after day with the help of God Almighty.

[Question] Let us go back to the problems of emigres outside Afghanistan.

[Answer] There are over 3 million emigres in Pakistan and about 1.5 million in Iran. Those going to Pakistan cannot get a tent for months and live in the desert without a roof over their heads, without food, without education and without hospitals. (Following the interview the press reported that 8 emigres lost their lives because of the cold and rain in the city of Peshawar). There are 1.5 million students out of school. The emigres have been able to open schools for 50,000 students only and the rest are in the streets. America came in with \$50 million, telling the Afghanis that it wanted to contribute to their children's education and would not interfere in the curricula and the faculty. It is like coming in with a plate of good food and sweets to someone who cannot find his daily bread. No matter how virtuous a person may be, he will want to eat and America will find people willing to deal with it. America is on the march and the emigres are suffering poverty, disease and ignorance. They suffer from everything. Unfortunately, Islamic interest in the cause is very weak. Former American president Nixon came in person to the border areas. Carter came to Peshawar a month ago but refused to stay in the city and went by helicopter to the border city of Landakota, insisting on setting foot on Afghan soil to see for himself the way things are. The Muslims, however, stay at luxury hotels and want to solve the problems from there. This is not the way to settle the world's biggest issue.

[Question] Are the Mujahidin preparing so-called "cadres" for the coming Islamic state?

[Answer] Dear brother, thank God the Jihad is a large school and if victory is attained, we have a large number of Muslims. He who can lead a people in a fierce battle with this level of efficiency can manage things in time of peace. We know ministers from the Zaher Shah era who were less qualified than a junior Mujahidin commander. Thank God, the Jihad has provided high-level training for a large number of commanders and some commanders in the interior have ten times more combat experience than any general in the world. They are ulemas or students, but their experience qualified them to be generals commanding one, two or three thousand Mujahidin.

[Question] One last question. What are the Muslims, peoples and governments alike, expected to do for Afghanistan?

[Answer] All we want is for them to join us with their hearts and prayers and to give all they can.

12502
CSO: 4604/18

AFGHANI JIHAD LEADER COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT

Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 28 Jan 87 p 37

[Interview with 'Abd-Rabb-al-Rasul Sayyaf: "We Ask the Conference Not Only to Support Our Jihad but Our Aims and Objectives As Well"; date not specified]

[Text] In a telephone interview with the commander of the Islamic Jihad in Afghanistan, Mr 'Abd-Rabb-al-Rasul Sayyaf, AL-MUJTAMA' asked him a number of questions about what the Muhahidin expected from the Islamic Conference and the nature of the Afghani Jihad delegation and the military situation. The following are his appreciated answers:

[Question] What do you expect from the 5th Islamic Summit Conference?

[Answer] We expect the conference not only to back our holy Jihad struggle, but to support its aims and objectives as well. This is not a haphazard Jihad, but one that has goals behind it, the most important of which are to repel the aggression, remove the vestiges of infidelity and atheism and establish a rightly-guided Islamic rule. We also ask them to sanction only what the Muhjahidin sanction and to be well aware of the fact that big talk in Kabul about a cease-fire, a coalition government, national conciliation and so forth is nothing but another series of deceptions aimed at misleading the world.

The Mujahidin, however, are aware of their deception and will not be misled by it. They will carry on their Jihad to realize their goals, "either victory or martyrdom."

[Question] Have you come to the conference with only one delegation?

[Answer] The seven Jihad organizations have unified their positions toward the new developments and have declared their unequivocal rejection of a cease-fire. They have also announced their refusal to form a joint coalition government with non-Mujahidin groups in Afghanistan. Thank God the Mujahidin's stand on Afghani issues is united and the delegation that represents them is made up of seven leaders and seven of their aides. They form one delegation.

[Question] What is the Jihad's current military situation?

[Answer] The Jihad's military situation is constantly improving and is very promising, particularly the 1986 Jihad that frustrated the enemies of Islam in Afghanistan and prompted the Russians to think of another way other than battle to carry out their designs.

So, the military situation is reassuring, thank God.

12502

CSO: 4604/18

OFFICIALS SCORE INDIAN STATEMENT ON CHAKMAS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

A Foreign Ministry official yesterday termed as "highly unfortunate" the Indian High Commission's statement on Tuesday on the repatriation of Chakma tribal refugees.

When asked to comment on the statement, the official said that it was nowhere near the truth.

Meanwhile, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Mr I S Chaddha was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday in connection with the High Commission's statement. But he failed to turn up at the ministry at the scheduled time at 12-30 p.m. An hour later, he informed the Foreign Ministry that he was unable to come and would call at the ministry today.

The Indian High Commission's statement to the press was issued at a time when the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry was still awaiting a reply to its note from the External Affairs Ministry of India clarifying their position about the postponement of scheduled repatriation of Chakma tribals on January 15.

The Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari yesterday gave a reply to the Indian High Commission's statement saying that it was neither objective nor based on facts and therefore, there was scope for creating confusion among the people.

The DC said that some of the miscreants opposed to the rehabilitation of Chakmas had deliberately opened fire from the

Indian territory and resorted to other acts of subversion to create tension on the night of January 14 and thereby impede the repatriation of Chakmas.

He further said that subversive activities such as firings, killings, arson and the like were being committed ceaselessly to stall the repatriation of the tribals.

It may be mentioned, the DC said, that firings and killings had been going on since January 9. These continued on January 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19, he added.

Stating the facts about the postponement of the repatriation the DC of Khagrachari said that he had three border meetings with the District Magistrate of South Tripura to expedite the repatriation programme.

On December 29, decision was taken to start repatriation from three points of the border after a meeting at the Indian town of Sabroom. It was also agreed that the Indian side would provide its final consent by January 10 about starting the repatriation from January 15. At the request of the Indian side at the meeting, a delegation of the tribal leaders led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) of Khagrachari held a meeting at Talindong of Khagrachari with the refugee leaders on January 6. The refugees were once again given full assurance about their security.

The Indian side, after a delay of two days on January 12, instead of January

10, gave their final approval to the repatriation to begin from January 15 the DC said and added that later at the request of Deputy Magistrate, South Tripura, he discussed the issue with him at Tabalchhari on January 14. "We agreed to start work for repatriation only from the Tabalchhari point from January 15", he added.

"We finalised all details about starting the repatriation from January 15", he said adding that bushes were cleared as part of the repatriation programme and the law enforcing agencies took measures to ensure security in the entire area. I also informed the Deputy Magistrate, South Tripura, about these measures and requested him to take the same measures. But surprisingly, firing began from the Indian side and continued for 20 minutes, he said.

The DC further said "as per agreed decision of the two sides, when I was staying at the scheduled border point of repatriation on January 15, the District Magistrate of South Tripura again proposed discussions on the repatriation programme. I agreed to the proposal in the interest of the repatriation and met him at the Indian territory. He told me that since firing had taken place and more Chakma refugees were crossing over to India, the refugees have declined to go back to Bangladesh. When I requested the District Magistrate of South Tripura to arrange a meeting with the leading refugees, he failed to arrange a meeting."

ANNIVERSARY OF BANGLADESH-SOVIET RELATIONS OBSERVED

Message to Soviet Foreign Minister

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Jan 87 p 12

[Text]

MANILA, Jan. 25:— Peace talks between the government and Communist insurgents have collapsed with the rebels announcing that they have pulled out of the negotiations and returned underground, Press reports said today, reports AFP.

The reported pullout from the talks by the Communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) comes after the two sides announced on

Thursday that the peace talks had been indefinitely suspended.

A total breakdown of the talks could not be independently confirmed today.

Manila newspapers quoted the NDF's lawyer, Arno Sanidad, as saying 'the NDF cannot negotiate with one party not in control of the situation.'

'I cannot anymore continue to talk at the negotiating table but will abide by the ceasefire agreement,' he reportedly added.

The NDF's three-man negotiating panel had left Manila and were now 'back to the people with whom their safety is assured,' Mr. Sanidad reportedly said, citing alleged military violations of the truce that ends on February 7.

Sources close to the NDF told Agence France-Presse earlier that the rebel negotiators have gone back 'to the provinces' for fear of being assassinated by military elements.

Message From USSR

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 28 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed the hope that friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Bangladesh would be further developed for the benefit of both the peoples and in the interest of strengthening peace and international security, reports BSS.

The friendly ties would also contribute to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon free and non-violent world, the Soviet

Foreign Ministry hoped in a message to Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"During the past 15 years our countries have acquired considerable experience of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation both in the field of bilateral relations and in the international arena," the message said.

Socialist Ambassadors

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Jan 87 p 3

[Text]

The Ambassadors of six Socialist countries in Dhaka on Thursday expressed their firm belief that the relations between their respective countries and Bangladesh would continue to grow for the mutual benefits of their peoples, reports BSS.

The Ambassadors were talking to newsmen on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and their countries at Soviet Information Centre in Dhaka.

Mr. Vladimir G. Beliaev, Ambassador of the USSR, Dr. Edward Baradziej, Ambassador of Poland, Mr. Dimitar Stanoev, Ambassador of Bulgaria, Mr. Lothar Nestler, Ambassador of GDR, Mr. Alexander Venglar, Ambassador of Czechoslovakia and Mr. J. F. Iorik, Charge D' Affaires of Hungary, spoke on the occasion.

Soviet Ambassador Beliaev in written statement said that his country had established diplomatic relations with Bangladesh since its inception on the principles fixed in the joint Soviet-Bangladesh Declaration signed in Moscow on March 3, 1972. The Declaration, he said, stipulates the development of relations between the two states on the basis of equality, mutual respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference into each other's internal affairs.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1463

DHAKA, USSR SIGN PROTOCOL ON ENERGY TALKS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Bangladesh and Soviet Union yesterday expressed their determination to strengthen the existing cooperation in the field of energy, reports BSS.

They also agreed to explore all possible means to expand co-operation in energy and exploration of mineral resources.

The two countries which signed an agreed minutes yesterday envisages concrete suggestions for strengthening existing cooperation. Both sides identified new areas of cooperation in energy and exploration of mineral resources in future.

Major (retd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Resources and the visiting USSR Deputy Minister for Power and Electrification, Mr. A. P. Poddubsky, signed the agreed minutes which followed detailed discussions between the two parties.

Mr. Poddubsky came in Dhaka last Monday leading a five-member delegation to attend the inauguration of Soviet-aided 210 MW Ghorasal Thermal power station (TPS).

According to the stipulation of the agreed minutes, the Soviet experts will continue to provide advisory service to Petrobangla in the exploration of oil and gas, the USSR has also agreed to supply spare parts and heavy vehicles for the rig they supplied in 1963.

The Soviet side agreed to undertake a study to ascertain suitability to set up 210 MW sixth unit at Ghorasal TPS. They have further agreed that in the event the setting up of the unit is not found technically feasible, they will carry another independent study to set up such a unit in any other part of the country.

The Soviet Union expressed its readiness to participate simultaneously in generation, transmission and distribution of electric power. The USSR has indicated to send a team of experts to study transmission and distribution projects to figure out particular projects where they could cooperate, the sources said. The visitors also expressed their readiness to provide technical assistance to reduce system loss and attain reliability of power distribution.

Of the other fields in which the Soviets expressed their desire to cooperate, the setting up of a power plant based on coal in northern part of the country is one. They have also agreed to help explore coal. In the development of human resources in power field the Soviet Union agreed to impart training to PDB personnel through setting up of a vocational training centre at Ghorasal like the one at Ashuganj.

Besides, the USSR agreed to consider to assist Bangladesh in the manufacture of spare parts for Ghorasal TPS at the Machine Tools Factory Joydevpur, and GEM Plant at Chittagong.

During their stay here the delegation besides attending the inauguration of Ghorasal TPS also visited Ashuganj Power Plant and called on a number of ministers including Mr. Anwar Hossain Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, and Air Vice Marshal (retd) A. R. Khandaker, Minister for Planning.

The delegation left Dhaka for home yesterday evening concluding the week-long visit.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1456

BANGLADESH-YUGOSLAV COMMISSION MINUTES SIGNED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Yugoslavia will provide credit worth 70 million US dollars for financing various development projects in power and shipping sectors of Bangladesh, according to an agreed minutes signed between the two countries in Dhaka yesterday.

The agreed minutes were signed by Finance Minister Mr. M. Syeduzzaman and Mr. Nenad Krekic, member of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade of Yugoslavia at the end of the 5th session of Bangladesh-Yugoslav Joint Commission.

The terms and conditions of the credit offered to Bangladesh will be worked out on principles to be mutually agreed upon later on.

Both countries expressed their determination to further increase the flow of trade between them and for promotion of bilateral trade, both sides agreed to facilitate establishment of trade offices by interested business enterprises in each other's country.

The two sides also laid emphasis on close contact between the business communities of the two countries at the four-day talks held in an extremely cordial atmosphere. Possibility of setting up of a joint business council between the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries and the Chamber of Economy of Yugoslavia also came up for discussion.

Both countries also agreed to further intensify and promote the scientific, technical, educational and cultural cooperation between them and it has been decided to conclude in future a bilateral inter-governmental shipping agreement on the principle of 40:40:20 cargo sharing basis.

The next (sixth) session of the Bangladesh-Yugoslavia Joint Commission for economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation will be held in Belgrade in 1989. The Yugoslav delegation left Bangladesh yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, Mr. Nenad Krekic, the leader of Yugoslav delegation met with Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (retd) A.K. Khandakar at his Sher-e-Banglanagar office yesterday and assured him of their continued assistance in power and shipping sectors in Bangladesh.

The Minister expressed optimism over further gainful cooperation between the two friendly countries and said that Yugoslav expertise and experience in the field of power generation and transmission and shipbuilding could make significant contribution to the national development efforts.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1456

REPORT ON ERSHAD SPEECH TO FIFTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jan 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

KUWAIT, Jan. 28:— President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today called upon the OIC member countries to join hands in the name Allah in the quest of peace and security based on honour and justice, reports BSS.

Delivering his speech at today's morning session on the third day of the fifth Islamic summit here, the President said history has offered us yet another opportunity to prove to the rest of the world the effectiveness of our institutions in the fulfilment of the lofty ideals of welfare, prosperity and happiness of all mankind.

He said Islam has given to the world the institution of equality, freedom, peace and justice. As a faith, Islam has introduced the concept of tolerance and moderation. He observed that these are the institutions which inspire the Islamic Ummah across the globe and throughout the ages.

President Ershad said the need of the hour before the Muslim countries is forbearance, cooperation and cohesion within the Islamic Ummah. He appealed to all member countries to shun the path of confrontation, bigotry, hatred and instead join hands in the name of Allah, the Almighty in the quest for peace and security based on justice and honour.

He said, let us pray to Allah-Rabbul Alamin—that peace and not war, cooperation and not confrontation, love and not hatred, forgiveness and not retaliation, unity and not dissension and justice and not tyranny should lead us to the path of success and glory.

The President appealed to Iran and Iraq to 'open a dialogue through the good offices of the

Islamic Peace Committee (IPC)' to end the tragic war between the two brotherly countries.

He urged both Iran and Iraq that if they have difficulties in speaking their mind formally, they are welcome to speak 'to any one of us, privately and tell us how this bloodshed can be stopped, honourably for both parties.'

He said 'let us not continue with accusation, and counter accusation, for we cannot sit as judges.' He said primary challenge before the Islamic World is to create conditions to end this tragic fratricidal war 'before it is too late.'

President Ershad said Bangladesh attached the highest priority to the role that the Peace Committee can play in this regard and thanked President Jawara, Chairman and other Peace Committee members for their personal commitment and sincere efforts to end the war. 'As an active participant of the committee, I fully endorse the report of the ninth session,' he said.

Referring to the continued and illegal occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories by the Zionist regime of Israel, the President said its policy of expansionism and aggression against the neighbouring countries continues unabated in flagrant violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and in defiance of the relevant resolution of the UN and world public opinion.

He said in the fundamental interest of international peace and security, Israel must be compelled to withdraw from all Palestinian and Arab territories it had occupied since 1967, including the holy city of Jerusalem. In this context, he reiterated Bangladesh stand for enabling the Palestinian brethren to exercise

their inalienable and legitimate rights to return to their homeland and of self-determination and to establish a sovereign independent state under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

President Ershad said like the abhorrent policies, the heinous practice of apartheid being intensified by the racist regime in South Africa and the reign of terror let loose on the majority black population of that country are affronts to human dignity. He called for world pressure on Pretoria's racist regime to see reason and establish a democratic multi-racial society based on the principle of one-man one-vote.

Two-tier approach suggested

President Ershad suggested a two-tier approach to solve the economic, commercial and financial problems facing the Ummah. In one hand national programmes should be integrated into a master programme of the OIC while steps should be taken so that the people get economic benefits immediately, he pointed out.

He said the resources and energy of the Islamic Ummah are expanded by discord amongst ourselves and we continue to drift further away from our cherished goals: the liberation of Palestine, economic emancipation of our peoples and world peace and prosperity. "Now is the time for serious reflection, the moment of reckoning. We cannot postpone it, for there is no recourse," he said.

The President said "Our organisation is both a symbol and instrument

of our solidarity. Let us together infuse in it the strength and dynamism so that it can truly become the ship of hope that was conceived by the founding fathers of the OIC."

The President Ershad expressed concern at the continuing occupation of Afghanistan by foreign forces. "Our brothers in Afghanistan continue to remain in a tragic plight, being deprived of their rights of self-determination, national independence and basic human dignity, by a foreign occupation force.

He said it is the sacred duty of every Muslim to help create a situation to compel the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan within a time frame thus enabling the Afghan people to determine their own form of government without outside intervention and interference.

The President referred to one of the principal objectives of the OIC which provides for the well-being of Muslims all over the world and said "we will thus failing in our duty if we do not take stock of the condition of Muslim communities in non-Muslim countries. In this context, he reaffirmed "our total commitment" to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus and prayed for the success of the UN Secretary General's efforts for the establishment of a bi-communal and bi-zonal federated state of Cyprus.

Touching the prevailing economic situation in the Islamic Ummah, he said the vast majority of peoples in Muslim countries continue to barely subsist mostly below poverty. Millions face starvation, disease and death, he said adding: "resource constraint continue to handicap the governments in their efforts to improve the situation."

ERSHAD SPEECH TO 25 JANUARY OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26-30 Jan 87

[26 Jan 87 p 3]

[Text]

Following is the English rendering of the speech of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad delivered on the first day of the winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad which opened at the Sangsad Bhaban here yesterday, Saturday and was circulated by BSS.

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim
Honourable Speaker and respected members :

Assalamu alaikum,

Today I welcome you to the third session of the Jatiya Sangsad which has been blessed with the confidence of ten crore people of Bangladesh. You are the symbol of democratic aspirations of the Bangladeshi nation. Accept my good wishes and felicitations on this auspicious occasion.

I had announced in this sacred place on July 10 last year that from today this Jatiya Sangsad will be the life centre of all national activities of Bangladesh. In keeping with that statement, today once again I want to say that this Jatiya Sangsad will be the builder of a prosperous new Bangladesh. The united wisdom of this Jatiya Sangsad will build a strong foundation for a brighter future for our coming generations.

On July 10, I myself and my government had requested the Jatiya Sangsad to complete the process of returning the country to complete constitutional democratic rule from the Martial Law rule.

I had said with the inauguration of the session of Jatiya Sangsad we have reached the last step of ending Martial Law.

I had expected cooperation from you for total withdrawal of Martial Law within the shortest possible time by creating no legal or constitutional problem.

You have extended unreserved cooperation in this regard. I am expressing my deep sense of gratitude for this. The Jatiya Sangsad had made historic contribution in withdrawing martial law by adopting the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution on November 10. Despite differences of opinion, the Jatiya Sangsad had set a unique example of upholding the national interest rising above party affiliations through adoption of this bill. It is for the first time in the political-constitutional history that the ruling party and the opposition together unitedly amended the constitution. I myself and my government firmly believe in doing things through national consensus. I am grateful to the Almighty Allah that we have been able to achieve success in this respects.

I have kept my promise. I have withdrawn Martial Law on day of the passage of the Seventh Amendment Bill without any delay. The constitution was totally revived. We have been able to restore constitutional system in country.

Today we have totally achieved the objective with the blessings of Allah and the cooperation from the people for which we have worked relentlessly after taking up the responsibility of running the affairs of state four and a half years ago. In 1982. I

am overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude. As elected President I have been able to come to Parliament elected under a democratic system.

I pledge standing in this sacred place of the Jatiya Sangsad that I shall make all-out efforts to redeem the confidence bestowed on me by the countrymen, the democratic state system that we have established. I shall protect even at the cost of my life.

All of you know under what circumstances the responsibility of running the affairs of state was bestowed on us five years ago. I have told you about that in the inaugural session of the Jatiya Sangsad. I do not want to re-iterate that here again. At that time we have fixed five priorities, as follows :

(a) Achievement of national consensus on basic national issues and establishment of political stability. (2) Restoration of constitutional system within the shortest possible time. (3) rehabilitation of the economy through production. (4) Implementation of urgently needed social and administrative reforms. (5) Revival of Bangladeshi nationalism and Islamic Ideals.

Keeping this in view, I had formulated the 18-point programme. To implement this programme I have taken mandate first through referendum and then through the elections to parliament and the presidency.

Our path ahead was not strewn with roses. Sometimes we had to face uneasy situation. Adverse behaviour by a section

of elements had given rise to apprehension of throwing the country in the whirlpool of uncertainty. But we did not lose heart. The consciousness of the people, indomitable mental strength of the Armed Forces and our confidence in the people had helped us to attain our objectives. The very existence of this Jatiya Sangsad, ending of Martial law and revival of constitution bear testimony to that success. The economic growth attained so far is yet another example of our success. The reforms effected in administration, judiciary and land system are manifestation of our success. I have described this effort of ours as politics of production.

Considering national interest honouring the verdict of the people and in the light of past experience, I as elected President and Leader of the elected government want to identify the following objective for the next five years:—

1. To strengthen the institutional foundation of the democratic constitutional system.
2. To flourish the national economy by pursuing policies of production.
3. To consolidate national unity on the basis of Bangladeshi nationalism.
4. To further expand the reforms initiated and
5. To preserve the successes attained so far.

The precondition of attaining these objectives is political stability. While explaining the policies of my government on several occasions before I had said the path to ensure political stability in a country like ours is to build up a democratic society.

Our commitment to democratic society is unwavering. People of the country aspire for multi-party democracy. I myself and my government believe in multi-party democracy. The Jatiya Sangsad is the embodiment of multi-party democracy. So I firmly believe that this Jatiya Sangsad is the fountain of coordination of the forces complementary for political

stability.

I have confidence that this Sangsad will perform that role with prudence, far-sightedness and firmness. The constitution has chartered for you that role and people also expect from you such performance. We have to keep in mind that history also expects such role to be performed by us.

We have reached a juncture of our national life that we have no scope to fail or to waste time. Democracy and political stability never flourish spontaneously. For that we require consciousness and united efforts. History of those countries where democracy has taken permanent and time-tested structural shape teaches us that lesson.

Experiences of past failures and illusions have enriched the thinking and consciousness level. So I have the confidence that this Jatiya Sangsad will help flourish democracy by careful nurturing to ensure a happy present and prepare the path of a bright future.

[27 Jan 87 p 3]

[Text]

In our yesterday's issue we published the first instalment of President Ershad's Inaugural speech at the winter session of Jatiya Sangsad Saturday. Today we publish the second instalment of the President speech as released by the BSS:

With all emotions of my heart, I like to say that for the last five years I myself and my colleagues have worked to hand over the mantle of leadership to elected representatives to lead country to the path of economic prosperity and political stability in an atmosphere of social amity and political understanding. The responsibility now is reposed on you.

On July 16 last, I gave an account of activities of my government for the last four and a half years. So I do not like to discuss those today, I shall bring to your notice some important and urgent subjects only.

You are aware that we have struck oil at Haripur in the Sylhet district. The finding of oil is a blessing of Allah for us. Let us all express our gratitude unitedly to Allah.

I congratulate the experts, officials and employees engaged in the exploration of oil and gas. We have struck this wealth

as a result of their relentless efforts and their efficiency.

Both national and foreign experts believe that we have more oil beneath the ground. The government has taken all necessary measures to expand exploration work for oil. We have initiative to seek technical and financial co-operation for this purpose.

We have brought about a political change in the country. But that change will be meaningless for people if it is not reflected in a better economic management. That is why the cardinal aim of this change and new political system is economic development. The improvement of the standard of living of people and the carrying forward of the overall production management are the goals of the new system.

You know that the national growth rate has been projected at 5.4 percent in the Third Five Year Plan. But the growth rate was 4.2 percent in the first year i.e. 1985-86, of the current plan. The main reasons for this were the non-fulfilment of the target in the industrial and the export sectors caused by the slump in the international trade. Though this growth rate was unsatisfactory in the light of the target, it

was significant compared to many less developed countries in view of prevailing international situation.

The growth rate during the current year also is being hindered due to prevailing international trade situation. The export earnings will not fulfil the target due to lower prices of raw jute, jute goods and tea. On an average the prices of these goods fell by 40-50 percent during 1985-86. And there has been no improvement during the current year also. Although it is expected that things improve in near future particularly in case of jute goods, the production target in the industrial sector might suffer. The overall industrial production is being hampered for a lack of growth in the textile industry. Production in the textile industry was being retarded due to widespread smuggling of yarn and cloth. The government is determined to take stern action against smugglers and necessary measures have already been taken in this connection. In future the growth in the textile industry will be instrumental in accelerating the growth in the industrial sector.

Apart from curbing smuggling, the government is determined to augment growth rate in the

textile sector significantly by adopting supportive measures in the import of materials necessary for this industry. The main purpose of this policy is not only to bolster the big textile mills but also to help expand the garment industry and extend all possible assistance to handloom industry.

This year's target in the production of aus and aman has more or less been achieved. It is expected that barring the natural calamity production of boro and wheat will exceed 170 lakh tons this year. A fair distribution of agricultural loan and inputs is specially important in the field of agricultural production. In last October I have given an unprecedented opportunity of writing off the interest of outstanding crop loan to facilitate farmers to take fresh loans. I am delighted to know that farmer brethren are coming forward to clear the outstanding loan taking advantage of this opportunity. Fertilizer distribution has surpassed the target during the first six months of the current year. 6.43 lakh tons of fertilizer were distributed during July-December, 1986 as against 5.98 lakh tons during the corresponding period of the preceding year. There is no doubt that this will help increase agricultural production. It is widely believed that the economic growth rate during the current year will be higher than that of the previous year.

A recent survey has shown that since 1982 the country has made a remarkable improvement in removing poverty. Although a big segment of the country's population lives below the poverty line and pressure of poverty is very high, significant progress has been made during the last four years in removing the poverty. According to the survey, the allocation in the agricultural sector in the countryside has increased in real terms for the first time during 1985-86. Compared to 1982 the agricultural wages in 1986 have increased by 20-25 per cent in real term and per head food supply by four per cent. This was the direct result of the government's programmes. The increase in the volume of investment in rural areas and increased allocation under Food for Work Programme have made significant contribution towards augmenting agricultural production and building upazila infrastructure. The improvement of this situation

calls for ensuring the overall national growth rate.

Here I want to emphasize categorically that there is no easy way for economic development to achieve economic growth and improve standard of living of people. If there was any easy method, there would not have been so many poor countries in the world. Economic development calls for political stability, socio-economic stability, hard work, sacrifice comparatively by the fortunate and well-to-do section and discipline in over all economic activities. I have no knowledge that anybody or political party has given an alternative. The maintenance of economic discipline, and curbing of anarchy with iron hand in the field of production are fully consistent with democratic political system. I have told you time and again, give me stability I shall give you progress. Give me discipline, I shall give you growth.

BANK LOANS

Here I want to draw your attention to the situation regarding the clearance of bank loans. I have given clear directive to take legal action for recovery of huge accumulated outstanding and long overdue bank loans, advanced in agricultural and industrial sectors. I have seen some good result of it. I have issued directive to take stern action against those whose who are not repaying loan with ulterior motive. Special legislative measure will be enacted if necessary for the recovery of the outstanding loans.

Persons having outstanding bank loans will be deemed disqualified for contesting at various levels under the local government. Similar steps may be taken for other spheres if necessary. Discipline will be restored in the economic field if the people in power as representatives in various levels of administration could set example through their conduct. Indulgence can never be given for blocking the wealth of banks and financing institutions by exerting influence. The bank loan defaulters have been given many opportunities and time, but no more.

It is not unknown that production in the industrial and agricultural sectors is being retarded for unrealised and outstanding bank loans, the conduct of a handful of men is disturbing the industrial and production policy of the government. The main plank of the policy of the government is to raise investment, export

and create employment opportunities by providing help to new entrepreneurs. No impediments will be tolerated in the way of implementation of the new industrial policy and in the stepping up of agricultural production.

Simultaneously I have issued directives to various corporations under the public sector to increase their responsibility, efficiency and activities. Irresponsibility and inefficiency will not be given indulgence in any quarters, be it in the industrial sector, nationalised bank, transport, gas and energy sectors. With this end in view the government has taken initiative to involve the people's representatives in running certain nationalised banks and industries by selling their shares in the market. I have noticed that some are deliberately trying to give a distorted meaning to this policy. It is a travesty of truth that by this the government is trying to hand over nationalised banks and industries to individual ownership. These industries and banks will remain under public sector, but the concerned officials will have to be made accountable by eliminating bureaucratic attitude and influence in their management.

I want to make it clear that no opportunity will be given to malign this sector for weakness in its management. Because I think the public sector has a special role in our mixed economy.

With a view to obtaining the maximum objectives of the Third Five Year Plan, the national growth rate should be increased to more than five per cent in the coming years, for this, the growth in the agriculture sector should also be maintained. The expansion of irrigation system is essential to maintain the agricultural growth, along with continued and ceaseless pragmatic research. I have observed for the last two years the procrastination and unsatisfactory atmosphere in expanding the irrigation system. I have also marked lack of coordination between the public and the private sectors in this regard. Orders are being issued to remove all such irregularities to expand irrigation and to run the public and the private sectors according to plans and programmes.

It is necessary to increase the growth rate of industrial sector and the export of non-traditional items, the preconditions for all such measures should be to simplify the procedures of investments according

The prime precondition of development is investment, and it also linked with savings and resources. We are especially dependent on foreign aid with regard to investment. I have already issued administrative orders for just and speedy utilisation of foreign aids.

to new industrial policy, simplify import items of raw materials and other items, finance through banks and introduce reasonable excise and tax system. These programmes should be expanded bringing about necessary reforms in export, import and overall industrialisation.

[28 Jan 87 p 3]

[Text]

Here we publish the third instalment of President Ershad's inaugural speech at the winter session of Jatiya Sangsad last Saturday as received from BSS. We published two more instalments of the President's speech in our previous two issues.

The selection and preparation of appropriate projects for the utilisation of foreign aids is a precondition to improve the present situation. And if we can implement those projects in the given time limit, the confidence of aid-giving agencies and countries would be increased. I have categorically spelled out my orders and decisions at a recent meeting of the project directors of the country. All the project directors and their administrative authorities should be accountable for this.

As you are aware that there was a big change in the mode of giving foreign aid, if we want to maintain the flow of food, commodity and project aid, the precondition would be to evolve a guideline for their proper utilisation. But it would be essential for us to increase our own resources. The rate of our national savings is in such a lower stage that the number of investments cannot be increased. We must ensure a change to this condition. I have given instructions to conduct an overall survey of our tax and tax administration system. The objectives of this order is on the one hand to raise production and export and earn more revenue, and on the other to strictly deal with the defaulters of taxes. It is also essential here to say that the huge amount of money which the government is spending for education, health, transport, generation of electricity and expansion of irrigation system, comes from foreign loans and aids.

The whole or portion of the expenditure in running these facilities should be borne by their beneficiaries. Otherwise it is not easy to keep them going or to expand them.

There is not much to say about the population problem of Bangladesh. I have given warnings time and again to this effect. Despite achieving the target of growth rate of the Third Five Year Plan the population of Bangladesh would reach nearly 13 crore by the year 2000. Therefore, we will have to achieve the target, fixed upto 1990, and reduce the growth-rate more so that it comes down to a minimum by 2000. To achieve this objective all administrative systems must be geared up and the programmes at the upazila level should be strengthened. A coordinated health programme is also needed side by side. For this an infrastructure is being made at the upazila and other levels. But the system is lacking its optimum use. I call upon the administration and local government authorities to ensure optimum utilisation of such system.

I do believe firmly that there is no scope for delaying to ensure economic development. If we ourselves do evolve appropriate guidelines and reformative steps we will have to face no conditions for getting foreign aid. I consider it a respectable way.

I am an optimist about the economic growth and future of Bangladesh because we are continuing the necessary efforts and endeavours. But as I said it earlier that it is not easy to ensure economic development. What is required is to remain undaunted in decision, ensure socio-economic discipline, increase production through

introducing reformative guidelines, increasing more non-governmental participation in the productive sectors to make a sound infrastructure and make the government strong in evolving its policies.

There is no alternative to firm decision and discipline for ensuring economic growth. It is equally applicable to agriculture, industry, export and import, taxation population control or education sectors. It is beyond any doubt that those who are pessimistic about the future of Bangladesh would be proved wrong.

The Third Five Year Plan will expire in 1990—after three years and a half from today. We will have to prepare plans and programmes keeping in view how the socio-economic system would take a shape after the period. No nation can proceed only with short-term plan. I have given directions to the Planning Commission to prepare long-term plans considering our responsibility towards our future generation. It is our sacred duty to find out appropriate modalities for developing the standard of living of common people of Bangladesh for the next 15-20 years through evolving an socio-economic structure.

We will have to draw longterm projects keeping in view of the activities of the poor countries, particularly the countries of the South Asia, and the atmosphere in the changing world at large. For preparing mid and short term programmes and projects, we must keep in mind the food production proportionate with population, expansion of education and health system to create efficient manpower, arrangement of necessary infrastructure, increasing export to make up

the balance of foreign trade and creating more scopes for employment to reduce poverty.

This is the age of technology. We have to fully utilise the technology in all spheres of our national life and increase production. No country can prepare its development programme, ignoring the changing situation in the world.

It will not be appropriate if they do so. It is more essential for Bangladesh, because the influence of foreign trade and aid on Bangladesh economy is quite important. I call for suggestions from all sections

irrespective of parties and opinions for evolving and making the future economy of the new Bangladesh more stronger. Eminent economists and thinkers can also play a vital role in this regard. We shall give

special considerations to their opinion. I believe firmly that the Jatiya Sangsad would give its serious thoughts on our economy. We have to remind that it is not for us only but for the future generation. The independence of the country should be made meaningful by raising the standard of living. There is no scope for wasting time, and we cannot retreat in our efforts and struggle.

[29 Jan 87 p 3]

[Text]

Following is the fourth instalment of President Ershad's inaugural speech at the winter session of Jatiya Sangsad last Saturday as circulated by BSS news agency:

I want to avail myself this opportunity to speak a few words about our foreign policy and the position of Bangladesh today in the international world.

We are following a balanced foreign policy in conformity with promoting national interest and building up friendly relations with all nations of the world. We have adopted a constructive approach on different regional and international issue. The policy pursued by the government has earned laurels for the nation in the community of nations.

We are an active member of the United Nations, Nonaligned Movement, Commonwealth and Organisation of Islamic Conference. Only a very few countries of the world have this opportunity of becoming the member of all these four forums. Even within the SAARC, Bangladesh is the only nation to enjoy this unique dignity. This status of Bangladesh and its active role in the greater global arena evidently reflects the wide support to the foreign policy of the country.

The emergence of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the pioneering role Bangladesh played in the formation of this regional forum has earned for the country appreciation and

commendable remarks from all quarters of the world. The SAARC is being viewed as a glorious chapter in the context of the relations among the nations of South Asia. We have also received recognition for consolidating the SAARC as its first chairman. I visited all the SAARC countries as the chairman of this regional forum and may hope that visit in conducting the affairs of the SAARC and similar such visits in the future would have a sobering impact on the multilateral as well as bilateral relationship and understanding among the member countries.

As a result of the successful foreign policy pursued by the country our Foreign Minister has been unanimously elected President of the 41st session of the United Nations General Assembly. The country has secured membership of the 30-member coordination bureau of the Nonaligned Movement and also became a member of the 'Al-Quds Committee' and peace committee on the Iran-Iraq conflict set up by the OIC. Bangladesh was the chairman of the Group of 77 and has also the proud privilege of getting the post of the first Secretary General of the SAARC.

Several important international conferences were held in the country in the last two years. The successful holding of these conferences has enhanced our honour abroad. These were the first SAARC summit conference,

the Islamic Foreign Ministers meeting, the Conference of Islamic Finance Ministers, the meeting of senior Commonwealth officials and the meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers. The meeting of investors forum has just taken place and Asian ministerial meeting of 'Group of 77' will be held here at the near future.

Bangladesh has now secured a kind of leadership of the Third World countries and the role being played by the country in different international forums as the spokesman of 'Group of 77' and the least developed country has earned appreciation. The country has taken initiative role on different economic reforms and issues relating to development in the United Nations and other international forums. The opinion and activities of Bangladesh in the fields of reducing child mortality, population control, international development cooperation, expansion of trade and food and agriculture have been widely acclaimed.

Bangladesh has always stood by the oppressed and poor nations and our support for the people of Palestine and Namibia is total and unflinching. We have always vehemently opposed the apartheid policy of the South African government.

We have continued unremitting efforts for a cessation of the Iran-Iraq war and I have also personally taken initiative for an end to this fratricidal war between two brotherly Islamic states. Bangladesh believes that

at the heart of the Middle East crisis is the Palestinian issue and we want to reiterate our fundamental position about the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied Arab territories including from the Al-Quds. We fully support the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and their just struggle.

Our cordial ties with the United States and the Soviet Union have further strengthened last year. Our bilateral relationship with the developed nations of the west and Japan have been further deepened. The holding of the parliamentary and presidential elections and subsequent withdrawal of martial law has been welcomed in all these countries and the political stability of the country has now been internationally recognised.

The existing cordial ties with China have been made further closer and I visited China for the second time in 1985. The head of state of China also paid a visit to this country last year. The government of China has invited me for a visit to their country in coming July and I have accepted the invitation.

A congenial atmosphere has been created for the settlement of the bilateral issues of the South Asian nations after the launching of the SAARC. We hope that we will be able to reach just and acceptable solutions of our existing disputes with India.

India has agreed for the first time to include Nepal to determine the quantum of share in the water of international river for the littoral countries and other related issues and tri-partite talks have already begun.

Indo-Bangladesh talks are continuing on the demarcation of land boundary and Tin Bigha corridor under the 1974 agreement and over the sovereignty of Bangladesh in the South Talpatty Island. We can hope that these long-standing disputes can be resolved through discussions based on mutual respect and cooperation in a good neighbourhood.

CHT SITUATION

I apprised you of the situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts in the inaugural session of the Jatiya Sangsad. I feel it is my duty to present the latest situation of the area before you. Some

quarters have been engaged in malicious propaganda against us about the situation there. And such propaganda is so organised that it can not be considered without vested political interests.

You know that repatriation was to start on January 15 of those Chakma tribal Bangladesh citizens who had to flee the country and took shelter in the Tripura state of India in the face of killing orson and terrorism created by the so-called Shanti Bahini who used to come from their safe sanctuary. We had taken all preparation and arrangement for this. But repatriation was not executed.

We are always interested and ready to do everything necessary to take back and rehabilitate all those genuine Bangladesh who were compelled to leave the country and to take shelter abroad through organised terrorism and propaganda. But the success of our sincere efforts does not depend only on our good intention. I hope that the barriers in the way of repatriation of the refugees would be removed soon and they would be able to return to their homesteads.

[30 Jan 87 p 3]

[Text]

Following is the fifth instalment of President Ershad's inaugural speech at the winter session of Jatiya Sangsad last Saturday as circulated by BSS news agency.

Today, I want to tell once again in an unequivocal term that there is no repression in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, not even on the Chakma tribals. An especial and massive programme is being implemented by the government for the rapid development of this area.

Out of 13 tribes in Chittagong Hill Tracts the Chakma tribe constitute only 30.05 per cent in terms of population. But the lion's share of the economic benefit of development programmes is being enjoyed by them (Chakma). The inhabitants of the other twelve tribes are in no way connected with the sabotage activities of the so-called Shanti Bahini in this region. Even excepting a small fraction of the Chakma

tribals, majority of them have expressed their solidarity with government development efforts and with the mainstream of the nation.

The literacy rate in other places of Bangladesh is 22 per cent. In Chittagong Hill Tracts the literacy percentage among the tribal people is 57 per cent. The per capita income of the tribal inhabitants is also comparatively higher than those in other places.

I want to ask those who are engaged in vilifying Bangladesh through their propaganda that repression is being carried out in Chittagong Hill Tracts region, whether these figures are the evidence of repression or the careful development programme of the government.

The so-called Shanti Bahini is now isolated from the people. The total elimination of their sabotage activities against the national interest and against the peace in the life of the people is

now a question of time factor.

I want to give this assurance to all the inhabitants of Chittagong Hill Tracts region that government will boldly follow all possible efforts to protect the regional integrity and over all development of this area. I again call upon the misguided Chakma juveniles to return to the national mainstream.

Now I would say a few words about the prevailing situation in the education sector as well as in the educational institution. This I had also discussed before you on July 10 last. Of late Discussions are on about my viewpoints on the prevailing situation in the educational arena. The education system and the student community are the keys to our future. Therefore, I welcome such discussions and even a debate in the society on such an issue, because we can integrate our thoughts after extensive consideration on a national basis. We can reach consensus on the issue. I would like

to enlighten you and through you the nation about the situation. I would like to raise a few questions.

A few days ago reports were published in our national press about the prevailing situation in the education sector. In the last half of last year out of 150 days classes were totally suspended for 120 days in one of the universities of the country. Apprehension is there that educated session of a university may be delayed by eight years. Classes could not be started even one year after admission in the highest institution for engineering and technology.

The body of a youth was torn to pieces while making bombs in a room of a university residential hall. While commenting on the present unhealthy atmosphere with regard to the performing of the responsibilities of the Vice Chancellors, a former Vice-Chancellor has remarked, "The universities are no longer the places of education, and now they have turned into war fronts of the political parties."

A week before I went on a visit to Indonesia. There we were taken to see an aeronautic workshop which manufactures aircraft. What we saw was that those manufacturing the aircraft are between 23 and 28 years of age. Not even a single foreign expert was there. It is an age of technology. Those who would fail to match with the modern technology progress would be a far cry for them. Youths in the developing countries like ours have not only absorbed and assimilated the high-tech but also applied them in a creative manner setting examples of creative talents.

And in our country on behalf of the students and guardians demands are being placed before me to increase the age-limit for government service to 30 years. For any nation it is undoubtedly unfortunate. But why? If one of the reasons is included as alleged by that former Vice-Chancellor?

I have already said before and again I am saying that I am not opposed to politics. I believe in a democratic society and multiparty system. I believe the need for a strong opposition for proper and healthy evolution of democratic system.

It is our sacred duty to rear up our student community as

socially conscious citizens. But the question is that which politics.

Should we ask them to follow. The politics that makes the university a war front of political parties instead of education institution? The politics that sacrifices the national interest for narrow and selfish ends of political parties? The politics that encourages setting of bomb manufacturing workshop in the universities? The politics that does not allow to hold classes for 120 days out of 150 days? The politics that forces the students to launch movement for increasing age-limit for government service instead of making them technologists for building the nation? The politics that leads the students towards the blind alleys of indiscipline and chaos?

The politicians of opposition parties are often making statements in the newspapers alleging that I want to ban student politics. It seems that they want the students to do politics like them, but I never heard from them say that the students should devote themselves to studies too. Till now no suggestion came from them to solve the present unfortunate and anarchic situation in the educational institutions. I have never seen them express concern at the delay of education session years after years affecting the future of the student community and causing sufferings to guardians and finally creating a serious vacuum in the national life. Is it politics?

You are the elected representatives of people. The country men have entrusted with the responsibilities of building their present and future. It is my question to your consciousness the conscience of the nation. We have to obviously find out the answer to this question for the survival of the nation and ensuring its future and flourishing the present. It is my call to you.

Before concluding I would like to congratulate the members of our patriotic and disciplined Armed Forces. During the last five years they had always helped the country save from going downward through socio-political and economic unrest and indiscipline. They are the supportive force to our people in building and preserving a democratic state, a self-reliant national economy and a stable society. They have pro-

ved their patriotism standing by the side of people in all critical moments in our history. The Independence and Sovereignty of the country and a better life of the people are dearer to them than their own lives. During the last four years and a half they have made success our journey towards transition to democracy by showing a deep sense of patience and devotion. I know they would remain uncompromising in the task of preserving democracy as they did in its establishment.

I would like to make an announcement before you. We have so long said many things about the establishment of Bangla Language in all walks of life. But we all know as to what extent it has been implemented really. I am announcing before the House that other than communications with the foreign countries all official files and letters have to be written in Bangla from today. If there is any violation, I am giving directive to send to me such letter or file. Those who would violate this decision, appropriate steps would be taken against them. I seek your cooperation towards the initiative for the establishment of Bangla in all spheres including our works and deeds.

We all present here are at the cross-road. Allah has given us the sacred responsibility to glorify this nation and make the life of people better. In the name of the constitution we have pledged to Allah to build a new Bangladesh. This responsibility is noble but tough. I seek your cooperation in performing this noble and uphill task. Please do come to fulfil collectively our commitments to people. Let us repay our debt to the nation.

Reciting from the Verses of the Holy Qurau I pray to Allah, Ya Rahmanur Rahim, give me strength so that I can remain firm in the path of truth and justice. Thank you all.

Khoda Hafiz
Bangladesh Zindabad.

TESTA BARRAGE TRIAL RUN WITHOUT DHAKA AGREEMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Jan 87 p 1

[Text]

The Teesta barrage at Gajal Doba has been pressed into trial run by the Government of India without fulfilling the commitment of signing an agreement with Bangladesh on the sharing of the Teesta water.

The understanding was India and Bangladesh would go into a written agreement before commissioning the Teesta Barrage. India reneged on its commitment.

The agreement on sharing of the Teesta waters signed in 1983 expired in December 86. No new agreement has yet been signed but Indian External Affairs Minister. N.D. Tiwari, during his recent visit to Dhaka, disclosed that the agreement has been extended by a year.

The agreement which no longer exists stipulated 39 per cent for India, 36 per cent for Bangladesh and 25 per cent remaining as reserve. A Water Development Board source said trial run of Teesta Barrage on the Indian side of the river would not immediately affect Bangladesh but added the agreement is a must. If India diverts more water than agreed upon it will adversely affect Bangladesh. It may be recalled, India also went on trial run and finally commissioned Farakka Barrage without an agreement.

Bangladesh is also constructing a barrage on river Teesta at Dhalia in Rangpur. The barrage will irrigate about 13 lakh acres of land in Rangpur, Dinajpur and a part of Bogra.

A water resource expert of long standing said deletion of the guarantee clause from the memorandum of understanding between India and Bangladesh on sharing of the

Ganges water has been suicidal.

The striking down of the clause under Indian pressure has not yet made any visible difference but it would tell upon the economy of Bangladesh once India commissions a large number of irrigation schemes now under implementation upstream the Ganges. The current memorandum of understanding on Ganges water will expire in 1988.

A Water Development Board source said the augmentation scheme must be delinked from sharing of the water of the Ganges. These are separate issues. The augmentation scheme if it becomes acceptable to all the three countries would take a minimum of 20 years to implement. Can Bangladesh afford to wait that long casting the sharing question aside?

The full requirement of India and Bangladesh of the Ganges water has been estimated at two lakh cusecs. This will demand construction of seven dams in Nepal at a cost of 20.4 billion dollars. The question is how will Nepal be benefited with seven dams which will inundate a large chunk of land in that country. But the present requirement could be met by constructing two dams in Nepal. There are two proposals before the Joint Experts Committee. The proposals are storage in

Nepal which has been made by Bangladesh and utilisation of the Brahmaputra water through a link canal which has been made by India.

The Water Development Board source said the water of the Brahmaputra would not be able to meet the entire requirements of Bangladesh.

There are 54 common rivers between India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh may face similar problem with all other rivers flowing through the two countries. India being the upper riparian country she can determine the flow of all the 54 rivers to the utter discomfort and disadvantage of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is facing difficulty in operating its barrage at Gumti with India diverting the water at its will for operation of the barrage on the same river situated at Maharani.

The experts felt there should be long term agreement between India and Bangladesh on the sharing of the water of all common rivers. These agreements should not be for lean periods only. The agreement should be for whole year.

The undetermined flow of water during wet months carries silts to the rivers in Bangladesh and aggravates their navigability. Why should Bangladesh suffer on both counts?

BRIEFS

DANISH AID AGREEMENT--Bangladesh will receive a grant of approximately Taka 110 crore equivalent to 245 million Kroner from Denmark for 1987 under an agreed minute signed in Dhaka yesterday between the two countries, reports BSS. The agreed minute was signed following the two-day semi-annual aid negotiations between Bangladesh and Denmark which concluded in Dhaka yesterday. The agreed minute was signed by Additional Secretary of the External Resources Division Mr M. A. Hena, and the chief of Danida mission in Bangladesh, Mr Poul H. Nyborg, on behalf of their respective sides. During the talks the two sides also reviewed the implementation of the different projects funded under Danish assistance. In 1986, Denmark provided Bangladesh with an assistance of approximately Taka 80 crore equivalent to 200 million kroner. The Danish assistance is utilised for financing projects in agriculture, inland water transportation, rural development, programmes for development of women and development of fish resources. Bangladesh has so far received Taka 523 crore as grant from Denmark under bilateral economic assistance programme. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 29 Jan 87 p 1] /9274

CSO: 4600/1459

IMAM OF QOM INTERVIEWED ON ARAB AFFAIRS

Tehran KAYHAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Dec 86 p 9

[Interview with Ayatollah Janatti, imam of Qom, by Samir Arshadi: "Ayatollah Janatti KAYHAN AL-'ARABI: Bloodshed in Camps Is 'Arafat-sponsored Scheme; infighting in Lebanon Is Purely Political, Not Sectarian; To Turn Weapons Against Israel, We Have Initiated Mediation in Lebanon; Saddam-'Arafat Alliance Has Bolstered Iraqi Regime's Effectiveness in Escalating Lebanese Crisis; Muslims Must Believe in Their Ability to Make Future and To Liberate Their Land from Invaders and Aggressors; Syria Has Stood Against Zionist Entity from Beginning and Has Not Displayed Any Weakness or Wavering; White House Was Not As Much Shaken by U. S. Defeat in Tabas As It Has Been Shaken by MacFarlane's Recent Defeat"]

[Text] It is no secret to observers of current events that the Islamic and international arena is pregnant with surprises and events. The pivotal point of these events is crystallized in Lebanon. Amidst the events, we interviewed His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad Janatti who recently carried out a political and information mission in Lebanon.

Ayatollah Janatti is a distinguished Islamic figure known for his genius and his sagacity in the eventful arena. He is the imam who leads the Friday prayers in the holy city of Qom, a jurisprudent member of the Constitution Preservation Council, head of the Islamic Information Organization, and member of the General Cultural Council.

A KAYHAN AL-'ARABI correspondent interviewed him in one of the Islamic Consultative Council halls and they had a detailed conversation on the various political affairs, of which we excerpt the following:

[Question] A few days ago, you took part in a mediation effort to stem the bloodshed in the camps war. The brother Sheykh ol-Eslam has continued the same mission which resulted in a cease-fire in Lebanon. What degree of success have you achieved?

[Answer] It is normal that those efforts did not achieve as much success as we had aspired for. I will not deny that from the start, we did not hope to achieve quick results in this area, keeping in mind that the results we had striven to achieve within this time span were no greater than what we have

achieved. As for the future, we are not desperate even though the different and varied policies pursued inside and outside Lebanon prevent one from painting a rosy picture of the Lebanese issue in the immediate future.

Therefore, neither we nor any other force is capable of taking in Lebanon a decisive position, assuring one that security and stability will be guaranteed there.

On the basis of the Shari'ah assignement and of humanitarian duty, out of respect for the Muslim blood, and in order to turn the weapons against Israel, we carried out this plan which, if continued in the desired manner, will be crowned with success, God willing.

[Question] Is the opinion saying that your mission is to end the camps war and to eliminate the impression that the war is a Shi'ite-Sunna War true? Some people imagine that the Islamic Republic of Iran favors certain Lebanese factions over the Muslim factions in the camps who are loyal to 'Arafat.

[Answer] I totally reject this impression. All those who live with the situation in Lebanon, both Shi'ites and Sunna, reject this impression.

During our latest visit to Lebanon, we met with Sunna and Shi'ite ulema and they assured us repeatedly that the ongoing fighting is not at all sectarian but purely political. Their worst fear is that this conflict may be tainted with sectarianism.

When I took part in the Friday prayers in Sidon, I stressed, and so did the imam who led the Friday prayers with me, that this issue is political, not sectarian.

As for the tendentious people who depict the Iranian mediation as being partial to some factions that are loyal to us, I stress taht we have always defended right and truth, regardless of whether the man in the right is Sunna, Shi'ite, or even non-Muslim. What concerns us is to defend the oppressed.

In our republic's history, I don't recall that we have taken a special stance in favor of any of the Lebanese parties or factions. This is an essential part of our general policy. What concerns us is that all the Muslims unite against Zionism and that they act in solidarity to eliminate this cancerous gland.

[Question] Why is 'Arafat determined to continue the infighting between the Muslims in Lebanon and why has he forgotten the issue of liberating the occupied Palestinian territories?

[Answer] 'Arafat has forgotten the issue of Jerusalem, of Palestine, and of the Palestinians. All he is concerned with at present is himself. He has traded for years in the name of the displaced Palestinians, he has obtained privileges and aid, and he has becom known in the iternational circles as the official in charge of the Palestinian issue.

When he left Lebanon for Tunisia, he began to lose his reputation gradually because Tunisia has nothing to do with the struggle against Israel.

Upon moving to Baghdad, he could not find an opportunity to brag with slogans of struggle against the Zionist entity. He also realized that his slogans have lost their glitter and no longer find receptive ears. Moreover, he has lost the aid and assistance he previously received in the name of the Palestinian movement, all of which has forced him to hatch this plot. I have no doubt that all the innocent blood shed in the Palestinian camps is the result of 'Arafat's scheming and that 'Arafat himself is responsible for this blood.

'Arafat now aspires to prove his presence in Lebanon with the help of the armed people who support him so that he may pretend anew that he struggles against Israel. When he gets material aid, he will implement his base scheme which is a secret to nobody, namely bargain with and recognize the Zionist entity and then throw himself into this entity's bosom, abandoning the oppressed Palestinian people to their own devices.

[Question] Through the Arab foreign ministers conference, some Arab countries are trying to pass a plan supporting 'Arafat and calling for the appointment of an Arab military commission to observe the situation in the camps. How successful will such a plan be?

[Answer] I don't believe that such a plan will succeed because 'Arafat cannot find himself a place in Lebanon. The elements opposing 'Arafat, even the Palestinian elements who have exposed 'Arafat's true character are will aware of this fact and they cannot believe such claims. I do not exclude the possibility that such a force will be formed but its hope of achieving success is very weak.

[Question] What role does the Cairo-Baghdad-Amman triangle play in intensifying Lebanon's crisis?

[Answer] The triangle you mention has recognized Israel, and it believes in ending the armed struggle against the Zionist entity and denounces whoever wants to launch war against Israel. If it were not for the presence of obstacles and barriers, the parties to the triangle would cement their relations with Israel and make them much stronger than they are at present.

The recent Saddam-'Arafat alliance and 'Arafat's stay in Baghdad have given the Iraqi regime a more effective role in intensifying Lebanon's crisis.

[Question] The Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries' operations against the Zionist forces and Lahd's forces are assuming broader dimensions day after day. What is your view of the future of such operations?

[Answer] I am optimistic over the future because the Islamic revolutionary movement is progressing everywhere. This blessed revolution's supporters are increasing day after day. Lebanon is a green branch of the Islamic revolution. We find that the Islamic revolution in Lebanon is taking root, gaining strength and moving forward. God willing, the Muslims everywhere, especially in Lebanon and Palestine, will believe that they are capable of making the future and liberating their land from the invaders and the aggressors. They must believe in their ability and their strength.

[Question] What does the sinister triangle (United States-Britain-Israel) seek to achieve with the threats and pressures it uses against the sisterly Syria?

[Answer] It is evident that Syria is a country which has confronted the Zionist entity's plots from the outset and which, has not displayed any weakening or wavering in this regard. Syria's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran have reaffirmed Syria's liberationist stance.

In view of these forces' support for Israel and their hostility to the movements opposed to Israel, it is normal that they would take such a position toward the Syrian Arab Republic. But their plots will end up in abysmal failure.

[Question] The imperialist media are trying to alleviate the latest U.S. defeat in Iran--a defeat which reminds of our victory in Tabass--by raising the issue of Israel's middleman role in the arms deal or the issue of using the profits from the deal to assist the contras, i.e., opponents of the Nicaraguan revolution. These media are trying to undermine our revolution's objectives and to reduce its supporters among the free and oppressed of the world. What is your opinion on this defeat's dimensions?

[Answer] The use of such exposed plots is further proof of the depth of the U.S. scandal in Tehran.

The U.S. defeat in Tabas did not shake the White House. But the MacFarlane issue has shaken it severely and inflicted upon it an abominable defeat with much greater ramifications than the Tabas issue (the U.S. military attempt to rescue the hostages from the den of U.S. espionage).

We must remain patient and watch how God defeats our enemies one after the other and how the Islamic revolution will triumph and make its way forward.

[Question] What is the Constitution Preservation Council's role in insuring the promulgation of Islamic laws?

[Answer] The Constitution Preservation Council's role is the role assigned it by the constitution itself. The Shari'ah and legal aspects of all the laws promulgated in the Islamic Republic are discussed by this council and the final say on the promulgation of any law is with the Constitution Preservation Council.

His eminence the leader imam has stressed the importance of this council's role and its sensitive role in the promulgation of laws conforming to the Islamic Shari'a.

[Question] To what degree has the Islamic Information Organization been able to convey our Islamic revolution's appeal to the world's dispossessed?

[Answer] The Islamic Information Organization has been as successful as its small resources permit it to be. We are in very great need of disseminating information outside the country. There are thousands of Muslims who burn with the desire to learn our news and who expect more of this great revolution and

of its objectives, especially the Muslims who have tasted the imperialist plots and endured the colonialist schemes and the rule of the infidels. We find that these Muslims open their hearts to us and declare their support and backing for our revolution.

It is natural that our limited resources do not enable us to satisfy the millions of Muslims and dispossessed in Africa who yearn for our blessed revolution. But we have not ignored this extensive interest and we have done our utmost to convey the revolution's appeal to its supporters by way of newspapers, magazines, and books that explain our struggle or by way of contacting these countries' ulema and explaining the revolution's dimensions to them. We are still seeking to increase our resources but "on no soul doth God place a burden greater than it can bear."

Our activities in Africa, India, Pakistan, Europe, and some Arab countries continue and grow daily. But this revolution's supporters are multiplying at an amazing pace and this requires us to redouble our efforts.

[Question] In your capacity as the imam who leads Friday's prayers in the holy city of Qom, what is the reason for the people's great participation in Friday's prayer ceremonies, especially when compared with the ceremonies held in the other Islamic countries?

[Answer] The reason for this is that the Friday prayer ceremonies have become very similar to the ceremonies held in the early days of Islam.

The Hadith transmitted to us shows that the Friday prayer preacher must point out the people's interest and benefits, must expose the plots hatched by their enemies, must mobilize the people to confront the enemies, and must create among them a comprehensive movement supporting Muslims, defending Islam and confronting its enemies. It seems that this approach is followed only by Iran and by some countries where the imams adhere to the spirit of the Hadith.

We are confident that if the Islamic rules are observed in the Friday prayer congregations, the blessings of these prayers will spread to all Muslims. If Muslims fail to achieve results from performing these prayers, it is because they perform the prayers superficially, failing to pay any attention to their spirit and meaning. Our adherence to Islam's teachings and our application of these teachings in Friday prayers have turned these ceremonies into a living concept. We have seen these prayers' blessing encompass our people.

8494/12951

CSO: 4604/12

NEW RATION COUPONS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT ANNOUNCED

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Nov 86 p 2

[Text] The public relations office of the National Oil Company announced: All drivers of gasoline-fueled vehicles are hereby informed that coupon numbers 206-210 of the "A" series for taxis and pickup trucks with red plates are valid for receipt of 30 liters each from 6/9/65-1/10/65 [27 November-22 December 1986].

Coupons numbered 206-210 of the "C" series for pickup trucks with white and red license plates are valid for receipt of 30 liters from 6/9/65-21/10/65 [27 November 1986-11 January 1987].

Considering that all "A," "B" and "C" series coupons were valid up to this date, the distribution of second round of ration coupons for taxis with red tags will include taxis with orange tags, turquoise line, airport railway station, telephone taxis, and intercity cars with red tags as well as taxis with white tags in Tehran, through the branches of Sepah Bank, and coupons for gasoline-powered pickup trucks with red tags and trucks, semi-trucks, and cranes with white and red tags will be distributed by Mellat Bank throughout the country from 8/9/65-13/9/65 [29 November-4 December 1986] for a period of six days.

The gasoline rations for pickup trucks with white tags have been announced up to 11/10/65 [1 January 87] and the second distribution round will be announced subsequently.

Blue coupon No 6 is valid for 30 liters and green coupon No 39 for 20 liters for personal cars from 6/9/65-11/11/65 [27 November 1986-31 January 1987].

That group of owners of personal cars who have not yet received their gasoline ration may go to the following branches of Melli Bank in Tehran from 8/9/65 [29 November 1986]:

Branch No 251, Shari'ati Street, Tajrish Square

Branch No 442, 7th of Tir Martyrs' Square

Branch No 119, Imam Hoseyn Square

Branch No 779, Vali-ye 'Asr Street, corner of Motahhari Street

Branch No 102, Vali-ye 'Asr Street, beginning of Ansari Alley

Also, owners of personal cars in provincial cities may go to the special Melli Bank branch designated by the traffic and driving office.

All owners of vehicles with incomplete documentation are requested to complete such documents as soon as possible and to avoid going to the branches of banks and offices of the National Oil Company.

10,000

CSO: 4640/72

CONDITIONS FOR HOME LOANS TO TEACHERS ANNOUNCED

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Nov 86 p 12

[Interview with Ministry of Education Deputy Mr Seyyed 'Alireza Musavi by reporters on 23 Nov 86; place not specified]

[Text] Islamic Republic News Division

All teachers residing and working in villages and teachers who pledge to work for seven years in villages will be given interest-free rural housing loans of up to a maximum of one million rials.

Mr Seyyed 'Alireza Musavi, the deputy for administrative and financial affairs of the Ministry of Education, who took part in a press, radio and television conference yesterday morning, announced the above statement and responded to the various questions of reporters.

According to a report by our correspondent, first pointing out that the total in interest-free loans granted to rural teachers will be 20 billion rials, of which 2 billion rials have thus far been provided and placed at the disposal of provincial banks, he said: Applicants may request loans by going to the central office of education of the place they serve. The main requirement for this loan is that applicants own land in the village and have carried out at least 10 percent of construction operations on the land. If the applicants do not have official land deeds, loans will be granted upon the certification of the local council.

Mr Musavi then stated that the above-mentioned loan has been determined both for new construction and the completion of buildings and will be paid under the supervision of a committee by the Ministry of Education in three phases. In regards to the measures taken by the housing cooperative company for educational employees, he said:

The number of housing cooperative companies for educational employees this year increased by 100 percent compared to the number in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984]. Also, last year, 23,450 teachers became landowners through the housing cooperative companies of the Ministry of Education. This number is more than 10 times that of those who received land in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985]. The Ministry of Education is prepared to distribute land to

all employees in the jurisdiction of this ministry who meet the requirements for receiving land in Tehran. Also, the banks of the country will grant building loans to all educational employees who have land or official deeds in provincial cities. Continuing this interview, he then mentioned the granting of 11,620 million interest-free emergency loans to more than 50,000 teachers, the payment of marriage loans to 23,000 educational employees, the distribution of necessary goods among 20,500 rural teachers at cooperative prices, and the three-fold increase of nurseries as steps taken by the Ministry of Education last year. He added:

Considering the activities that have taken place so far, this year, too, steps will be taken in regards to the distribution of necessary goods among the rural teachers, the expansion of nurseries by the Ministry of Education, and the payment of marriage loans to educational employees.

In conclusion, the administrative and financial deputy of the Ministry of Education pointed out that last year, 386 emergency loan funds were formed in the educational districts, which increased by 100 percent compared to 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984]. He said:

By the end of this year, emergency loan funds will be established in all educational districts. For every member of the fund, this ministry will pay 2,500 rials in charitable grants to the funds. So far, more than 230 million rials have been granted in aid to these funds.

10,000

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RATES FOR SOME DENTAL SERVICES ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Dec 86 p 3

[Text] The new rates for general dental services will be implemented from the date of issuance and insured persons, as before, will be responsible for 20 percent of the determined rate.

The Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education announced the above statement and added: The announcement of the new dental rates in 67 cases through the media shall be regarded as instructions and shall be implemented from the date of issuance. The new rates for the above-mentioned services have increased compared to the previous ones.

The previous rates on dental services included 14 instances and were approved in 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975]. However, the new rates have increased in number to 67 instances, and dentists may receive the amount in full for various dental services from the Ministry of Health and Treatment.

1. Extraction of one of the front teeth in one session: The new rate is 600 rials, previously 400 rials.
2. Extraction of any other tooth in addition to the front tooth: New rate, 500 rials, previously 300 rials.
3. Extraction of a back tooth (or canine tooth) in one session: New rate, 800 rials, previously 400 rials.
4. Extraction of any additional back tooth in one session: New rate, 600 rials, previously 400 rials.
5. Tooth x-ray (periapical), per frame: New rate, 500 rials, previously 300 rials.
6. (Akloza) x-ray, per frame: New rate, 600 rials, previously 300 rials.
7. Tartar removal, each jaw: New rate, 2,000 rials, previously 1,000 rials.

8. Opening abscess: New rate, 1,000 rials, previously 150 rials.
9. Treatment of acute (osteitis), per session: New rate, 500 rials, previously 1,000 rials.
10. Extraction of tooth impacted in soft tissue: New rate, 3,000 rials, previously 1,000 rials.
11. Surgery on tooth impacted in bone: New rate, 6,000 rials, previously 2,500 rials.
12. Gum removal surgery: New rate, 7,500 rials, previously 2,000 rials.
13. Resection (epicone) with root canal (restoration cost of the crown will be received separately): New rate 10,000 rials, previously 5,000 rials.

Rates for some of the other dental services for which rates did not exist previously and which were not announced in KEYHAN are as follows:

1. Gold cap (laboratory and gold costs will be received separately): 15,000 rials.
2. Gold and porcelain cap (laboratory and gold costs will be received separately): 20,000 rials.
3. Orthodontic treatment with movable plates, per jaw (treatment cost for every plate) and (laboratory costs will be calculated separately): 40,000 rials.

According to the new rates, specialists will receive 25 percent more than the above-mentioned units (of course, involving treatment in the same field of specialization.)

Also, expenditures for laboratory and consumer goods, such as gold and dentures, will be collected separately. The cost of authorized treatments by dental assistants in training, who have permits within the restrictions of the bylaws concerning the employment of such individuals, will be 50 percent of the above rates.

Part of the rates are as follows:

1. Wages for arranging and baking a set of upper and lower plates: 6,500 rials.
2. Wages for arranging and baking a complete set of teeth for one jaw: 4,000 rials.
3. Casting (crochet) of cobalt cream, with repairs: 1,500 rials.

4. Labor on all-gold crown (the amount of gold used will be charged separately): 4,000 rials.
5. Charges on all-gold bridge (the amount of gold used will be calculated and collected separately): 10,000 rials.
6. (Asteri), per jaw: 3,000 rials.
7. Wages for gold and porcelain crown (amount of gold used will be calculated and charged separately): 5,000 rials.
8. Repair of (acrylic) teeth: 1,500 rials.
9. Orthodontist plate, without screw: 3,000 rials.

10,000
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BAZARGAN TO RAFSANJANI: YOU HAVE SHUT PEOPLES' MOUTHS

London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Feb 87 p 16

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] In an open letter to Hojatt ol-Elsam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, the leader of the Freedom Movement of Iran strongly protested the way the war is being administered especially the lack of defensive anti-air raids suitable for the cities of Iran facing continuous Iraqi air attacks.

In this letter which has a very strong tone, Engineer Bazargan and his friends in the Freedom Movement of Iran protested to the leaders of the Islamic Republic about the silence regarding casualties in Iran resulting from recent Iraqi attacks and for withholding facts from the people. The Freedom Movement of Iran in this letter accused the leaders of the Islamic Republic of not announcing the extent of human casualties resulting from the savage bombardment of the cities of Iran. Mehdi Bazargan in one part of the letter stated: "You don't talk in this regard but the people themselves have noticed with their eyes the endless transport of the martyrs' corpses. The people see with their own eyes that the hospitals are full of the war wounded and those injured on the verge of death. The nation sees that the big cities of Iran gradually have turned to silent cemeteries and desolation."

The Iran Freedom Movement distributed thousands of copies of this open letter in Tehran on the very same day that the Karbela 5 attack reached its climax and the Islamic Republic had started a vast vindictive retaliation against Iraqi cities. The Iran Freedom Movement in this open letter condemned the attack on Iraqi cities and wrote: "We ask ourselves was it not better, if Tehran, instead of purchasing surface-to-surface missiles and using them against Baghdad and other Iraqi cities whose regime does not treat its innocent inhabitants in an Islamic and humane manner, would have purchased surface-to-air missiles to demolish the enemy's aircraft."

In this open letter, Engineer Mehdi Bazargan attacked Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who is also the Imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council and wrote: "With your unskillful and irresponsible statements, you have separated and isolated Iran from the rest of the world. Who has given you the right to sacrifice the lives of the present generation

of Iran and the nation's wealth in order to punish a person even if he was the highest criminal of all the world and centuries? Is this man's head worth the massacre of 100,000 and maybe 1,000,000 lives and complete devastation of Iran's cities?

"What shepherd, in order to get revenge for the killing of one of his lambs by a wolf, leads all of his flock of lambs toward a definite death?"

"It is seven years that you are searching an imaginary victory in burning deserts and mirages. During this time your directive "War Until Victory" has changed to "War Until Complete Annihilation." Who has given you the legal right to lead the nation to complete desolation with the excuse of attaining the fall of Saddam Husayn? Whereas the dismissal of Saddam does not change anything except replacement by another dictator or a pro-American successor. Are you willing to accept this probability which you have emphasized all this time?"

Engineer Mehdi Bazargan in this open letter accuses the leaders of the Islamic Republic of using the war in order to remain at the head of nation and the government "You have shut the people's and nation's mouths. You continue the war knowingly in order to strengthen your shaky power inside the country. That is why you are not able to change your policy. Why don't you present a logical and reasonable proposal to end the war?"

In another part of this open letter, Engineer Bazargan presented Hojjat ol-Esiam Hashemi Rafsanjani as responsible for major decision making and emphasized that he must assume responsibility for the present deadlocked situation. Regarding foreign policy, the Freedom Movement of Iran announced that Iran, instead of boycotting the last conference of the Islamic leaders should have participated in the conference and presented its stand. The Freedom Movement in the conclusion of this open letter stated: "Israel is the big winner of this war. Israel pours oil on the fire of this war and its aims is that the military forces of Iran and Iraq be completely annihilated in order for Israel to be rid of both of these countries.

"It is better that you yourself explain what you want to do with this nation of 48,000,000? Are you still intending to continue this war as long as the last house and the last person exists? God bless our and your future."

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LEADERSHIP'S ATTITUDES TOWARD KURDISH GUERRILLAS SURVEYED

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Nov 86 pp 10, 11

[Article by Dr 'Ali Nuri Zadeh: "Background of Kurdish Problem Analyzed; Kurdistan's Next Battle Is Between Talabani and Barzani"]

[Text] Kurdistan's hard winter returns and the bloodied face of Mahabad's Mountains is covered with snow;

Mamid leaves his cave, mounts his white horse, and moves toward his demolished city;

A Kurdish woman lights a small candle behind his window;

And in Jamaran, the Iranian people put out the last flame of the sedition they call "Khomeynism."

This excerpt from "Winter on the Last Night Before the Break of Dawn," a poem recently written by Iranian Kurdish poet Mohammad Zanakteh, not only carries the Kurds' concerns and hopes but also reflects at the same time the type of relationship binding Iranian Kurds to the rest of the Iranian people.

The revolutionary sees that the return of Mamid, i.e., the Kurdish Muhammad who was martyred 3 years earlier at the hands of the Revolutionary Guard, to his city will restore light to the city and that this return coincides with the extinction of the last flame of the sedition in Jamaran.

Now that 8 years have passed in the Kurdish struggle to achieve democracy--a democracy which provides for the establishment of self-rule in Iranian Kurdistan --and to restore power to the Iranian people, what has the Kurdish people's struggle movement accomplished for the Iranian people and for itself? Who is true in his allegations: The regime which accuses the Kurds of working for Iraq and alleges that the Kurdish movement is nothing but an instrument of pressure used by Iraq in its war against Iran to divide Iran and to open internal fronts against the revolution--or the Kurdish struggle movement, all of whose factions deny strongly the Tehran ruling regime's allegations and stress that the movement is a part of the struggle of the Iranian people whose power has been stolen by the ayatollah and who have been driven into a tragic war from which only Israel and the major powers will benefit"?

Mollah Hasani, Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative in the city of Urmiyeh, which was known formerly as Rezaiyeh and which is the capital of Western Azerbaij Province--Ayatollah Hasani, a man who secured for himself a seat in the Islamic Consultative Council after executing 200 Kurdish strugglers in a single night at Urmiyeh central prison, said in a comment on the Kurdistan war: "This war is a holy jihad which we bless and in which we take part because it has given us the golden opportunity to wipe out the Kurds. If we emerge from this war triumphant, the world will never again hear the word 'Kurd' after our victory because we are determined to wipe out his word--Kurd--from our dictionary."

Mollah Hasani's positions, usually expressed in his Friday sermons in the city of Urmiyeh are not different from the entire regime's positions toward the Kurdish movement. However, Mollah Hasani is more courageous than his colleagues in Tehran. Because he is not versed in politics, Mollah Hasani expresses everything he believes in frankly whereas Tehran is determined to continue its policy of "striking the snake with its own head," i.e., stirring up and recruiting Kurd against Kurd. The most significant accomplishment of this policy was to reduce the losses of the regime's forces in Kurdistan's battles last year. Reports received from Tehran indicate that the Iranian leadership plans at present to withdraw most of its forces from the Kurdish areas and send them to the battlefronts. The Iranian leadership will entrust the task of guarding these areas and of fighting the Kurdish strugglers to the forces of Mas'ud and Idris Barzani on the one hand and to Jalal Talabani, its new ally, who recently acknowledged the jurist's rule with Damascus' blessing, who abandoned his briefcase, which abounds with secular and democratic ideas, in Syria, and who went to the ayatollah who until recently represented reaction and backwardness, to use Talabani's words in an interview he gave AL-TALI'AH AL-'ARABIYAH 2 years ago.

Even though the forces of the Democratic Kurdistan Party of Iraq (Barzani's faction established relations with Tehran's regime 7 years before Talabani's forces did, the latter forces have been able, by virtue of committing a series of heinous acts against Iranian Kurds belonging to the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization culminating with the murder and robbery of 10 members of this organization, to achieve something unprecedented in the Iranian arena. Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the regime's leaders and the Islamic Consultative Council chairman who had previously ignored the identity of the Kurds cooperating with the Tehran government, openly expressed his deep thanks and gratitude to Jalal Talabani and his forces. People who were accustomed, until the beginning of last month, to hearing Rafsanjani characterize in his speeches the Kurds loyal to the regime as "Kurdish strugglers" must have realized in the wake of Rafsanjani's latest statement that changes were made in the regime's policy toward the Kurds. But what motivated the Islamic Consultative Council chairman to acknowledge Talabani's role was not just a result of Tehran's new policy toward the Kurds. In his latest statement, Rafsanjani purposely put the blame for what happened between the pro-Tehran forces and the Mojahedin-e-Khalq cell on a road near al-Sulaymaniyah City squarely on the shoulders of Talabani and his faction because of the heinous nature of the operation Talabani's forces carried out against the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization.

According to the communique issued on the incident by the Mojahedin-e-Khalq office in Paris, "on Saturday, 11 October 1986, a group of Talabani's forces attacked a cell of the Peshmergha forces belonging to the Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization while the cell members were heading home. Even though the Mujahid-e-Khalq cell had not planned to clash with Talabani's forces and had tried to ignore these forces, the Talabani group was not content with clashing with the cell members but proceeded to murder and rob heinously 10 of the cell members."

According to another statement broadcast by "Voice of Mujahid," the Mojahedin-e-Khalq leaders that he refused to cooperate with the reactionaries ruling in Tehran and who urged Rajavi to make greater sacrifices to topple the regime ruling Iran in the hope that this regime's downfall would end the war and would restore security to the two fraternal countries--this same Talabani backed down on what he said in his message to Mojahedin-e-Khalq and cabled Ayatollah Montazeri congratulating him on his election to the position of Ayatollah Khomeyni's deputy and asking for his approval for a Kurdish delegation to visit Qom and meet with him!

Some observers believe that Tehran has paid an exorbitant price to buy the loyalty of Jalal Talabani who, until his recent departure to Tehran, was an instrument used by Damascus not only against Iraq. Damascus repeatedly used Talabani to justify its refusal to acknowledge the Iraqi Higher Islamic Revolutionary Council set up by Tehran to take power in Iraq, should Tehran be able to bring about such a move. These observers add that Syria, which has rejected Tehran's argument that the Higher Council represents the Iraqi opposition relied on Talabani as representative of the Kurds and on Major General Hasan al-Naqib as representative of the army. When Tehran agreed to recognize Jalal Talabani and his movement, it did not occur to Damascus that Talabani was prepared to sell his loyalty to the ruler jurisprudent in return for Tehran's recognition and that immediately upon his arrival in Tehran, Talabani would forget his covenant with Hafiz al-Asad and declare his pledge of loyalty to the imam.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has paid dearly for disregarding this possibility because he has lost his Kurdish card without getting anything in return. When Jalal Talabani decided to join the so-called Iraqi Higher Islamic Revolutionary Council and to enter into an alliance with the two brothers Barzani, the only thing left in the Syrian president's hand was Hasan al-Naqib whom a member of the Higher Council has described as a small caricature of the hero in Cervantes' "Don Quixote."

The question that poses itself now is: Has Tehran won Jalal Talabani now that Damascus has lost him?

An aide to Dr 'Abd-al-Rahman Qasemlu, the leader of the Peshmergha Forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, which is the main Kurdish opposition faction in Iran, noted in his assessment of Tehran's new alliance with Talabani the presence of historical disagreements between Barzani's group and Talabani's group and said: "Tehran exploited the old differences between Dr Qasemlu, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran, and Barzani's group to recruit the latter

against the former when the regime failed at the revolution's outset to entrust the task of striking Qasemlu to the faction of scholar Mofti Zadeh, who was Ayatollah Khomeyni's representative in Sanandaj. After a short period of cooperation with Tehran, Mofti Zade refused to raise his weapons against his comrades.

"It is at this point that the role of Idris and Mas'ud Barzani, who were more enthusiastic than the Revolutionary Guard for striking their cousins in Iran, emerged. At the same time, the two men (Idris and Mas'ud) put their forces at the ayatollahs' disposal to carry out sabotage missions in Iraq. In the past 7 years, Tehran has used Barzani's faction on two fronts: first, against Qasemlu and his Peshmergha forces and, second against Iraq.

"A long time ago, Tehran realized that Barzani's faction was turning into a burden on its shoulders because what this faction offers the ayatollah is not in balance with the money it collects from him. It is to be noted that Ayatollah Komeyni sent the minister of his Revolutionary Guard to Damascus to notify his Syrian ally that Tehran is prepared to receive the Kurds cooperating with Damascus after having rejected this cooperation for 7 years." Concluding his statements, the Iranian aide close to Dr Qasemlu said: "The Kurdish strugglers in Iran are preparing to confront the new phase of the ayatollahs' plot against the Iranian national movement, of which the Kurdish struggle movement represents a major part. Even though the ayatollah has recruited all the resources at his disposal against the Peshmergha forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, with Talabani's faction standing on the ayatollah's left and Barzani's faction on his right, what the Iranian Kurds expect to happen is not a clash between themselves and those who have sold themselves to the ayatollah. It has become evident that the next battle in Kurdistan will be between the agents, i.e., between Talabani who has offered his 'secularism' as a gift to Khomeyni and who has acknowledged the jurisprudent's rule and the Barzanis who are not concerned with the identity of the party that pays them, be it the shah or Imam Khomeyni."

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